FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MAY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force carried out a successful air strike against "two large naval targets" south of Khark Island on the night of 13-14 May, thus confirming Iraq's ability to strike any vessel trying to approach Iranian ports in the Gulf, a military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Nevertheless, the Iraqi information minister earlier indicated that Iraq was not responsible for an attack on a Kuwaiti oil tanker on the morning of 13 May, asserting in a statement reported by Baghdad radio that Iraq had initiated no naval or air activity in the Gulf since 9 May.

The attack on the Kuwaiti tanker followed President 'Ali Khamene'i's warning in a Friday sermon, reported by Tehran radio, that Iran will not allow its oil routes in the Gulf to be disrupted while other Gulf shipping routes remain safe and secure. Accusing certain Gulf countries of colluding with Iraq in the attacks on shipping to and from Iranian ports, Khamene'i stressed that Iran will not remain silent over these "devilish" acts and that if any oil route becomes insecure "this would be tantamount to the insecurity of all oil routes" in the Gulf. The Iranian Foreign Ministry subsequently announced in a statement broadcast by the radio that Iran will not tolerate any disruption of order, stability, and security in the Gulf and will react to "adventurist and war-mongering" behavior by the Iraqi regime "backed by the United States." An Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement carried by Baghdad radio warned that the Iranian regime will bear "complete responsibility" for any situation that may cause "anxiety and unrest" in the Gulf and lead to intervention by foreign forces.

In a separate development, "mujahidin" of the Islamic revolution of Iraq claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion which damaged the Iraqi Airlines office in Cyprus on 12 May, IRNA reported. Callers to AFP offices said the Iraqi Islamic Action Organization was responsible for the blast, which injured four people, according to Nicosia radio.

Lebanon

Security/Military Situation — At least 16 people were killed and 70 others were wounded in clashes which erupted across the contact lines in Beirut over the weekend, Beirut radio announced. A Security Arrangements Committee source cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio held the Lebanese Army and the Phalangists in East Beirut responsible for the fighting, while Lebanese Front leader Camille Sham'un blamed "reckless and irresponsible" elements in West Beirut for the violence, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

In the south an IDF lieutenant was killed in a hand grenade attack in An-Nabatiyah on 11 May, Jerusalem televison reported. Meanwhile, Damascus radio carried further warnings of a possible Israeli attack against Syrian forces, citing reports that the IDF has moved 155-mm field guns into the southern Al-Biqa' and has conducted live-fire exercises in the area.

Political Situation — "Observers" linked the deterioration of the security situation in Beirut to differences of opinion in the Cabinet over plans to reform the Army, Beirut radio reported. During the 11 May Cabinet meeting the opposition leaders insisted on establishing an Army command council comprising six officers to replace the present command structure, the radio added. In a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio after the meeting, Prime Minister Rashid Karami did not mention the Army issue but noted that the Cabinet had agreed on arrangements to secure the release of kidnapped people.

Commenting on the political situation in a *MONDAY MORNING* interview reported by AFP, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt urged all sides to "achieve a kind of truce" but noted that all parties are entitled to keep their weapons until a deal is reached. Junblatt expressed concern over the reappearance of armed militias in West Beirut, which he described as a "jungle."

Libya

Tripoli Incidents — The "revolutionary force" located and killed the "leader" of the group that carried out the 8 May attack in the Libyan capital, Tripoli radio announced. The radio claimed that this "terrorist group," as well as the three men apprehended trying to cross into Libya from Tunisia, belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood, "an agent of the United States." "Informed diplomatic sources" reported that arrests of suspects in the Tripoli attack are continuing, according to AFP.

Meanwhile, "hundreds of thousands" of Libyans held a demonstration in Tripoli against the "enemies of people's authority," JANA reported. The demonstrators issued a statement reiterating calls for the formation of "suicide detachments" to "exterminate" enemies of the regime abroad and for preparations for battle with the regime in Sudan. The statement also denounced the "traitors from Egypt," Sudan's rulers, and the "bad symbols" within the Tunisian regime for colluding with "American and British imperialism" to harm Libyan interests.

In a related report, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Italian ambassador and the Belgian charge d'affaires in their capacity as representatives of British and U.S. interests in Libya and handed them notes protesting British and U.S. support for "terrorist elements," Tripoli radio disclosed. The notes characterized this support as a "hostile act" against Libya.

Tunisia once again denied any connection with the events in Libya, in response to a statement issued by the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and the Libyan media's "insistence" on involving Tunisia in Libya's internal affairs, according to TAP. JANA, in turn, claimed that the evidence leaves no room for doubt that the "terrorists" entered Libya from Tunisia. The agency asserted that an individual or individuals undoubtedly "facilitated" the entry of the "terrorists" into Libya, and it was the "joint task" of the two countries to uncover those who seek to harm Tunisian-Libyan relations.

NFSL Attacks Claimed — Libyan "commandos" on 8 May blew up the computer center at Al-Abrak Air Force base, while another group the next day blew up the main radar station in Banghazi and one of the main dish antennas used by Tripoli Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland radio, according to a military communique issued by the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) and carried by SUNA. Another NFSL communique carried by SUNA claimed that 100-120 Libyan soldiers were killed or wounded in the attack on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's residence.

Chad Pullout — Al-Qadhdhafi has submitted to President Francois Mitterrand proposals for withdrawing Libyan troops from Chad, Paris radio announced, citing Minister of European Affairs Roland Dumas. The minister observed that French troops would be "ready to leave Chad" if an inter-Chadian reconciliation appeared possible.

Israel

West Bank — Police arrested Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the Jewish settlers in Hebron, in connection with the investigation into a Jewish "underground" organization, Jerusalem radio announced. The Tel Aviv paper *'AL HAMISHMAR* said Levinger may be the "spiritual authority" for the underground sought by police and disclosed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had approved his arrest.

Earlier, Jerusalem radio announced that Israeli soldiers killed two "terrorists" in an 11 May clash in western Hebron. The terrorists had ambushed but not hurt an IDF unit, the radio said. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio asserted that the two men were from a PLO group carrying out operations "in accordance with the revolution leadership's directives," but the Fatah dissident movement said they were from one of its commando units, according to a statement from Damascus reported by AFP.

U.S. Arms Sales — Israel is considering a public campaign against the U.S. Government's intention to sell military refueling aircraft to Egypt, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Such a campaign would be Israel's "first objection" to a U.S. arms sale to Egypt since the peace treaty was signed, the radio noted.

Jordan

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, in an Amman television interview, confirmed that Jordan has purchased a Soviet air defense system because of the U.S. failure to provide similar weapons. Warning that Jordan is unwilling to wait until the Americans reconsider their position on arms sales, 'Ubaydat indicated that Jordan has already begun contacts to obtain weapons similar to the Stinger missile, asserting that it received "positive responses from almost everyone" and is waiting for a deal to be completed.

'Ubaydat urged the next Arab summit to agree on "positive steps" to facilitate Egypt's return to the Arab fold, adding that Jordan is "not ashamed" to take steps to consolidate its relations with Egypt, which are "almost in existence" apart from the formality of exchanging ambassadors. He said Jordan and the PLO must adopt a single unified stand and then request assistance from their "Arab brothers," who should give political support to the idea of an international conference and financial support to the Jordanian-Palestinian "steadfastness" fund for the occupied territories. 'Ubaydat also said there is "nothing new" in Jordanian-Syrian relations, adding that Jordan holds Syria responsible for sponsoring groups which are trying to undermine its security. He called on Syria to "do something" to end the Iran-Iraq war and warned that, if Iranian forces defeat the Iraqis and occupy part of Iraq, the war will not end because a "new war" will begin.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in a 13 May speech to the international conference of Friday imams broadcast by Tehran radio, urged his audience to raise political and social issues in their sermons and to call on people to rebel against their governments.

Afghanistan

The Panjsher District governor claimed in an interview broadcast by Kabul radio that Ahmad Shah Masud's forces have been eliminated and that "full security" is now in force throughout the Panjsher valley. He urged refugees from the Panjsher to return to their homes. Meanwhile, the radio announced that the Kabul-Panjsher road is open to normal traffic. A mujahidin spokesman cited by Tehran radio's Arabic service denied that Soviet-DRA forces have occupied the valley, and Karachi radio reported that the mujahidin foiled the Soviet attack and captured 900 DRA soldiers.

Western Sahara

Moroccan King Hassan II, in a message to the military commander of the "southern region" broadcast by Rabat radio, welcomed the Moroccan Army's completion of a security wall across the Western Sahara.

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Reportage on 'Arafat's Activities, Statements

Athens Arrival, Kuwait Remarks

JN111731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Athens last night heading a PLO delegation to attend the Panhellenic Socialist Movement [PASOK] congress, which began its work in Athens yesterday. The brother commander, who arrived from Dhaka via Kuwait following a tour of the PRC, DPRK, and Bangladesh, said he made it a point to respond to the PASOK invitation to attend the congress. Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar described his tour as successful, and said the talks covered all Arab and international issues as well as the latest developments of the Palestine question.

In the statements he made during his stopover in Kuwait yesterday, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar said the PRC leadership has reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's just cause. Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the PRC leadership acquainted him with the results of its talks with President Reagan concerning the Palestine question. Brother Abu 'Ammar said his talks with the PRC leadership also covered several other important issues, including the Iraq-Iran war and the PRC leadership's stand which calls for ending this war in view of its danger to all the countries of the Third World.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar said that he held talks in Pyongyang with DPRK President Kim Il-song on several topics of mutual concern. The brother commander also held talks in Dhaka yesterday morning with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. Abu 'Ammar later held tripartite talks with the Bangladesh president and with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, who was visiting Bangladesh. The talks dealt with a number of important topics, especially the need to expedite a meeting of the ICO good offices committee in order to discuss means for ending the Iraq-Iran war. Palestine and Bangladesh are members of this committee. Regarding the possibilities for Palestinian contacts with the new Lebanese Government, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that such contacts will be held at the appropriate time, especially with regard to Palestinian residents who are experiencing difficulties under the anomalous laws which were promulgated after the Palestinian revolution left Beirut.

Replying to another question on the possible convening of the PNC, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that there is a desire to convene the PNC by the end of this month, provided that it is preceded by a popular conference of representatives of popular organizations and Palestinian communities in the diaspora.

Regarding recent Zionist enemy measures to empty occupied Palestinian territory of its inhabitants, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The Zionist enemy government is carrying out a serious operation which is primarily aimed at the land. This is what we warned of and discussed at the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis, the conference which endorsed the PLO's call for an Islamic foreign ministers meeting to discuss this very subject. Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that there is no disagreement among the Palestinian resistance groups. He pointed out, however, that whoever takes up arms against his own people has no place within the ranks of the revolution and will not be forgiven by our people. Asked if there is any Palestinian-Arab coordination with Egypt concerning its plan to end the Iraq-Iran war, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that one of the items on the agenda of the ICO good offices committee is the Egyptian plan and the various concerned parties' replies to it.

Arrival in Tunis

JN121753 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has arrived in Tunis from Athens after heading the Palestinian delegation that participated in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement [PASOK] Congress at the invitation of the movement. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar held talks in Athens yesterday with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on the recent developments in the Middle East and the developments ofnthe Palestinian question. The talks also dealt with the importance of holding an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices. Greek sources described the talks as successful and fruitful.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar delivered a speech at the PASOK congress yesterday. In his speech, Abu 'Ammar reiterated his call for intensifying international efforts to hold an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices. He said: If this conference is not held, the conflict will extend beyond the region. Brother Abu 'Ammar, who was accorded a warm reception when he arrived at the congress hall, informed the delegates at the congress that the talks in the international conference must not be linked to preconditions, and that the UN Security Council member-states and all parties to the conflict must participate in these talks.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said that the Soviet Union has proposed such a meeting, and that the concept of this meeting is gaining strong Arab support. However, he added: The West has described this concept as premature. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar appealed to the international community to speed up the convening of this conference. Otherwise, the volcano which erupted during the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon will not stop at the Arab region's borders.

In his speech, Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked the Greek socialists and Greek people for their support during the 1982 Zionist siege of Beirut and during last year's siege of the city of Tripoli which was imposed by the Syrian forces. He said that Greek ships transported Brother leader Abu 'Ammar and many of the Palestinian revolution's cadres and fighters during that time. He also thanked the Greek Government and people for Greece's support of the Palestinian question at the United Nations and the EC. He pointed out that Greece is the only EC state that has no diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity.

While he was embracing Greek Prime Minister Papandreou amid a stormy applause which lasted several minutes, Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: I would like to express my deep appreciation of the stands of solidarity that your government has adopted under your wise and brave leadership. The 250 delegates at the congress stood and sang: Greece, Palestine, there is only one enemy; it is imperialism. The applause lasted until Brother leader Abu 'Ammar sat down.

Meeting With Soviet Ambassador

LD131256 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1149 Gmt 13 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 13 May (KUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat conferred last night in Tunis with Soviet Ambassador Vselovod Kizichenko. The Palestine news agency WAFA said that the situation in the Palestinian arena, the latest developments of the Palestinian question, and the situation in the Middle East were reviewed at this meeting.

KUNA Interviews PFLP's Mustafa on Moscow Talks

LD111455 Kuwait KUNA in English 1349 GMT 11 May 84

[By 'Abd al-Wahab Khashan]

[Text] Moscow, May 11 (KUNA) — A visiting Palestinian leader said Friday he was told by Soviet officials that Palestinians should bolster their ties with Syria in order to face "American-Zionist" designs in the Middle East. Assistant Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Abu 'Ali Mustafa told KUNA the Soviet officials made the remarks during talks with a PFLP delegation on the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question. The talks, he said, stressed the need for Syria and the Palestinians to formulate their ties on "a progressive anti-imperialist basis." The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and members of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee urged the Palestinians to preserve the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, Mustafa said.

Asked to comment on reports that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat had called for UN-supervised peace talks with Israel, Mustafa totally dismissed the idea, saying it violates the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, the highest Palestinian policy-making body. The PFLP called earlier in the year for the ouster of 'Arafat as PLO leader after he visited Egypt, which most of the Arab countries boycotted in 1979 for making peace with Israel. But 'Arafat 3 days ago denied he called for talks with Israel and instead advocated an international conference on the Palestinian question to be attended by superpowers and all parties involved in the Middle East conflict.

Algiers Talks To Focus on Organizational Issues

JN130958 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 May 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Excerpts] Amman — Deputy leaders of three main factions within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) arrived in Algiers Saturday to start a second round of reconciliation talks aimed at restoring the unity of the organisation. A few hours before leaving Damascus for Algiers, Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant general-secretary of the DFLP, told the *JORDAN TIMES* in a phone interview that the second round of talks "will focus on the political and organisational differences." According to Mr 'Abd Rabbuh the main issues that will be discussed will be Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the political implications it entailed, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, the PLO's relations with Syria, and the election of a new Executive Committee for the organisation. But Mr 'Abd Rabbuh said that the four-faction alliance is insisting on its position towards Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

The DFLP official explained that the four-faction alliance is not opposed to the dialogue between the PLO and Jordan per se but objects to some of its results. He said that relations between Jordan anfthe PLO should be in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and in February 1983.

The PNC, which is considered the highest legislative body within the PLO, has endorsed the concept of confederal relations with Jordan. "The PNC has endorsed the establishment of confederal relations between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state which is to be established in the West Bank and the Gaza strip," Mr 'Abd Rabbuh said. "Therefore any talk that comes out with contradictory results to this goal or that might infringe the PLO's right to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is rejected."

Before leaving for Tunis on his way to Algiers last week, Mr al-Wazir told the *JORDAN TIMES* that he did not think that there are any "ideological differences" among Fatah and the other factions. "Fatah is still committed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and to armed struggle," he said. "Furthermore, Fatah does not intend to deputise any party to talk on behalf of the Palestinians."

The Fatah official asserted that the on-going Jordanian- Palestinian dialogue "is consistent with the PNC resolutions." Mr al-Wazir also said that the results of South Yemeni and Algerian mediation efforts between Fatah and Syria are expected to be discussed during the second round of reconciliation talks. Algerian and South Yemeni mediation efforts, however, were delayed,and emissaries from both countries are expected to arrive in Damascus next week to start their mission. It was decided to put off the Algiers meeting till next week at first, but then all parties agreed to hold it Saturday, if results of the mediation efforts were not clear by then. Mr 'Abd Rabbuh said that "both the reconciliation talks in Algiers and mediation efforts with Syria can be carried on at the same time." 'Abd ar-Rahim Malluh, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP, told the *JORDAN TIMES* in a phone interview that the Algerian and South Yemeni emissaries who are expected to arrive in Syria in the beginning of next week, are carrying "a political initiative which can serve as a basis for reconciliation between Fatah and Syria." Mr Malluh, a member of the PFLP delegation to the Algiers talks, explained the main points of the "political initiative" as:

— Commitment by both Syria and Fatah to Arab summit resolutions, especially those concerning relations with Egypt.
— Commitment by both sides to a unified stance towards American-sponsored plans, especially U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative and the Camp David accord.

— Commitment on the part of Syria to the independence of the decision-making of the PLO.

Mr Malluh also said that the second round of talks will include only the five organisations that participated last time. "We decided not to widen the basis of the meeting until a later stage," he said.

PLO's Al-Wazir Arrives in Algiers 12 May

LD131738 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Algiers 13 May (APS) Mr Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Armed Forces, arrived yesterday evening — Saturday — in Algiers to take part in the Palestinian meeting which will resume its work in Algiers. Mr Khalil al-Wazir was welcomed on his arrival by Sadeq Zwatin, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee for External Relations.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Mediation With Syria

JN140701 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] In Algiers, Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has said that a joint Algerian- PDRY delegation will shortly leave for Damascus to try to end the differences between Fatah and Syria before summoning the PNC to session. Al-Hasan announced this initiative at a time when everyone has been awaiting the arrival in Algiers of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] representatives to attend the second meeting of the various Palestinian groups, which was scheduled to convene yesterday, Sunday. Al-Hasan, speaking about French President Mitterrand's expected visit to Jordan, said that France is able to play a major role in settling the Palestine question. He added that this year would be an appropriate time to arrange a meeting between the French president and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Radio Stresses Need To Hold PNC on Time

JN111024 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1647 GMT 10 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, any discussion of the Zionist occupation authorities' decision concerning the permit-holders among our people in the diaspora remains impotent if it is confined to the procedural aspect of this decision and its aims without tackling the motives and additional reasons which the enemy is trying to directly or indirectly take advantage of. Top among these reasons are the current circumstances of our revolution in general and the PLO in particular.

When the enemy made its decision, it exploited the suspended activity of some of our legitimate institutions and the absence of coordination and dialogue among the various revolution factions within the PLO framework. This is in addition to the attempts to hamper re-organizing the Palestinian house, on both the organizational and political levels, in light of the absence of frameworks and institutions that are able to draw up the programs and plans, which conflict with those of the enemy. Thus, we must say that we should not permit the Palestinian house to remain in its present status under any pretexts or slogans.

As the constructive dialogue is necessary, the current phase requires us to calculate the time element per day or even per minute. It is unreasonable to keep our institutions suspended under the slogan of dialogue, which seems to be subjected to delay for a long period of time, in order to prolong this suspension. Everything must be calculated. National interests require us to not only initiate the dialogue, but also to end this dialogue with positive results and reach an agreement on holding the PNC at the scheduled time and place without any delay or postponement.

When our leadership rejects postponement of the dialogue or the PNC session, it does not do so because of pressure, but because of a deep understanding of the national responsibility and of the need for developing the actions of the Palestinian institutions. This is in order for them to play their role in planning and execution, whether on the level of offensive or defensive programs, of which we are more in need today than any time before, in order to confront the plans for vacating our occupied land —the latest of which was the decision concerning our people who hold permits. This decision is a prelude to more serious decisions that might be made before the Israeli elections this July, making use of the absence of our institutions and the current conditions of the Palestinian house.

While the PLO and its revolutionary and legitimate leadership stress the need to reorganize the Palestinian house, it is fully aware that if this objective is not achieved very quickly, this means that hundreds of families in our occupied territory will suffer greatly. It also means giving the enemy a golden chance to wreak more havoc and to make further decisions and measures of expansion and settlement until it has reached the point of declaring the official annexation of our land. Our historic leadership will not permit this to take place, relying on its determination to continue the struggle and reach positive results from the dialogue, taking the time factor into consideration. The convocation of the PNC session on its scheduled date is not a whim. It must take place within the framework of the revolution's strategic calculations and the homeland's highest interests.

AL-BAYAN: PLO To Move Headquarters to Cairo

GF131535 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] Dubai, 13 May (WAM) — The newspaper *AL-BAYAN* reported today that during the inauguration speech of the new Egyptian People's Assembly, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will officially announce that the PLO will move to Cairo and that one of the places proposed for the PLO headquarters will be the Arab League building located on Liberation Square. Quoting Arab sources in Paris, which the paper described as very reliable, it said that preparations are underway to prepare a villa near the former building of the Arab League to be the permanent residence for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian Leaders Cited on Relations With Egypt

PM111413 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 May 84 p 5

[Ihsan Bakr report: "Six Days With the Palestinian Leadership"]

[Excerpts] I have just returned from Tunisia, the temporary headquarters of the Palestinian revolution's leadership, after a 6-day working visit during which I held two sessions with [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat, in addition to other meetings with most members of Fatah's Central Committee. I addressed numerous questions to them.

What I heard from Yasir 'Arafat over 2 full nights and what I heard from [Fatah Central Committee member] Salah Khalaf — Abu Iyad — amount to the same thing. It had been claimed by some that Abu Iyad was one of the people most strongly opposed to 'Arafat because of the latter's visit to Egypt and that the differences between the two men had paralyzed the entire Palestinian action. In actual fact, the views of Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] are shared by Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan, PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi, and Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge of Israeli affairs Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. They all agree that the Arabs should return to Egypt and vice versa and they agree that this return should be through the Palestinian door.

As he talked to me about Egypt and Palestine, Abu Iyad, with overwhelming emotion, said: We are like orphans without Egypt. He had sent his car to pick me up from the hotel to take me to his headquarters. As soon as I saw him I went on the offensive after he asked me about Egypt. I said: It is understandable when the dissidents criticize 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. I can also understand opposition to the visit by Palestinian groups under Syria's or Libya's umbrella, but I cannot understand such a thing coming from you.

Abu Iyad replied: What are you saying, man? There is no disagreement between us and Abu 'Ammar over Egypt. Egypt is our big brother. With its great political and cultural weight Egypt is indispensable to us. This was our conviction before the visit and it remains our conviction after the visit. The disagreement was over the timing of the visit.

Earlier statements by Abu Iyad and the Fatah Central Committee had given some people the impression that Fatah's leadership was opposed to the principle of contacting Egypt, which is untrue. What they agreed on was initiation of a quiet dialogue away from the limelight and from the television cameras. It was within this framework that some envoys from both sides embarked on unannounced moves to pinpoint the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two sides. The Fatah Central Committee fully understands the dimensions of the Egyptian position and fully appreciate the responsible decisions adopted by President Husni Mubarak since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Dissidents To Attack Fatah Interests in Europe

NC121450 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] We have learned that armed groups belonging to Palestinian dissident Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who is financed by Libya, have been sent to several European countries, particularly Cyprus, to attack the Fatah movement's interests. Libya had accused the Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] groups of being behind the attempt to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi.

15 Israeli Soldiers Killed in Ambush

NC122004 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Damascus, May 12 (AFP) — At least 15 Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush on the Israeli-occupied West Bank that took place within the last 24 hours, dissidents of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's main faction, Fatah, said here today. The dissident movement, led by Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], issued a statement here saying two of their men were killed in the ambush near the village of Yibna. The statement said the attack had been carried out on the dissident movement's first anniversary and that the other members of the commandos had returned safely to base. In Jerusalem earlier today an Israeli military spokesman said two men, carrying guns and grenades, had been killed last night by an Israeli patrol near Hebron in the West Bank. No other details were given.

PFLP Ties Shamir to West Bank Underground

JN111743 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] In a contact with our radio, PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif said that he has definite information from private sources that the terrorist group which committed crimes against the Palestinians in occupied territories is closely connected with the Israeli prime minister's special tasks office. He added that his sources affirm that a high-ranking Israeli officer was entrusted with recruiting a number of Army reservists who are known for their hostility to Arabs as tools for implementing an anti-Palestinian terrorist scheme.

INA Reports Siege of Khark Island 'Highly Effective'

JN101415 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Vienna, May 10, INA — Iraq's siege of the Iranian oil terminal of Khark Island has proved to be highly effective. According to world insurance firms, only two oil tankers registered sailing to the island recently.

An oil source close to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) told INA's correspondent here today that British Lloyds Insurance firm neither disclosed the two oil tankers nationality nor the date of their arrival at Khark, something which ran contrary to the usual, fearing an Iraqi strike against them.

The source added that international shipping firms were now reluctant to send more of their vessels and oil tankers to that region, after other ships had been repeatedly attacked there.

Consequently, the source said that Iranian oil exports had declined recently in a tangible way, due to Iraq's blockade of Iranian oil terminals.

The source put Iran's current oil exports at 1.7-1.8 million b/d, a figure less than the previous one of more than 2 million b/d.

KUWAIT

Tanker Hit By Unidentified Aircraft

LD131241 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1216 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 13 May (KUNA) — The chairman of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti Oil Tankers Company Mr 'Abd al-Fattah al-Badr announced that this morning the Kuwaiti tanker *Umm Casbah* was hit by fire from unidentified aircraft. In a statement to KUNA, Mr al-Badr said that the tanker was hit at 0902 Kuwaiti time [0602 GMT] today at latitude 27 degrees 43 minutes north, which is a zone outside the operation area of the Iraq-Iran war. [Kuwait KUNA in English in its transmission at 1253 GMT on 13 May places the longitude of the incident at "50 degrees 11.9 minutes east."] He said that preliminary contacts with the ship's captain indicated that there are no losses in lives or any fire or explosions, but the rocket that was fired at the tanker led to slight material loss, mainly in the tanker's middle tank. He added that the ship was on its way from Kuwait to Britain and was carrying 76,560 metric tons of petroleum. The ship's captain confirmed that he changed course to Bahrain, where the preliminary investigations concerning the incident will be held.

Damage Minor

LD141030 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti military mission returned here last night from Bahrain after inspecting and photographing the Kuwaiti oil tanker, *Umm Casbah*, hit yesterday by an unidentified plane, it was learnt Monday. Results of the investigation revealed that the damage done the tanker was minor and that none of the vessel's passengers or crew members was injured. The tanker, *Umm Casbah*, was hit at 09 hours (local time) Sunday after leaving Kuwait for Britain with a cargo of 76560 metric tonnes of Kuwaiti crude. A slight damage was done to the tanker's mid tank and following necessary repairs in Bahrain, the tanker is scheduled to resume its voyage.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Denies Talks With United States

LD131006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0914 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 13 May (KUNA) — In a statement published here today 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, denied the existence of talks between his country and the United States at present time. In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH* he said that starting a dialogue with the United States and the resumption of diplomatic relations with it "is dependent on the extent to which U.S. policy changes its hostile position regarding some of our Arab peoples' issues, including the Palestinian people's right to return and self-determination; abandons the policy of interfer-ing in internal affairs; and respects our people's national sovereignty and right to choose the path of their own development. He described relations with the Soviet Union as "distinguished" due to its political stand supportive of Arab issues in all circumstances. He expressed his hope that in their conference due to be held in Tunis soon Arab foreign ministers will arrive at a common position that would serve as a basis for convening an Arab summit. Regarding Aden's policy on the GCC countries, Dr ad-Dali said that his country is concerned with establishing good relations with the sisterly countries in the Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf. He said that we consider our relations with Kuwait and the UAE as honorable and brotherly and expressed his country's readiness to develop its relations with the neighboring countries, with which we share more than a common denominator. [sentence as received] He pointed out his country's interest in the region's security and stability and described the U.S. military presence in the region as constituting provocation against the peoples of the Gulf countries.

CSSR Leaders Congratulated on Liberation Day

GF111741 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a congratulatory cable to Comrade Dr Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CSSR Communist Party Central Committee and president of the CSSR, and to Dr Lubomir Strougal, chairman of the CSSR Council of Ministers, in which he congratulated them on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the victory over fascism. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad highly valued the solidarity stand of the Czechoslovak people who, on 9 May some 39 years ago, achieved the most magnificent historical victory with the support of the friendly Soviet Union and its heroic Army. He also highly valued their stand of solidarity with the struggle of our Arab peoples against all the imperialist and Zionist plots, especially with regard to the Palestinian people's struggle. Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his satisfaction for the developing relations which link our friendly parties and countries. He wished them good health and happiness, wished the friendly Czechoslovak people more progress, and wished the relations between the two friendly countries continued development.

YAR

President Calls Al-Qadhdhafi, Expresses Support

GF112018 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] This evening, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, telephoned brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution. The brother president, commander, and secretary general affirmed to his brother Col al-Qadhdhafi the support of the Yemeni people for the Libyan people in confronting any aggression aimed at undermining Libya's security and national sovereignty, and affirmed the Yemeni people support Libya just as they support any Arab country subjected to any aggression, and that Libya's security is an inseparable part of the Arab nation's security.

Spiljak Receives Mubarak Message on Gulf War

NC111830 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] SFRY President Mika Spiljak received a message from President Husni Mubarak today when he received Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, who is currently visiting Belgrade.

President Mubarak's message falls within the framework of the continuous consultations on international problems, and on the Iraq-Iran war in particular. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Belgrade Mamduh 'Abd ar-Raziq.

It is worth noting that President Mubarak sent similar messages to a number of nonaligned heads of state on the Egyptian initiative to end the Gulf war. Badawi said he sensed during his consultations with Lazar Mojsov and a number of Yugoslav officials an understanding on all levels of the Egyptian view of current problems. He said there was an identity of views on the Lebanese problem, the Gulf war, and the situation in Africa. He added that agreement was reached, during the talks, to continue bilateral consultations on all levels.

Badawi Returns From Yugoslavia

NC140653 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA) — Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, assistant foreign minister and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, returned to Cairo from Belgrade early today.

Badawi gave Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak a letter from President Husni Mubarak dealing with Egypt's efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war and its proposals in this regard to the nonaligned states. The Egyptian envoy's visit to Yugoslavia lasted 5 days.

Sri Lankan Minister Arrives in Cairo 11 May

NC111353 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 11 (MENA) — The minister of food industries and development in Sri Lanka arrived here today heading a delegation on a 4-day visit. The delegation will have talks with ministers of economy, foreign trade, development supply, and domestic trade on boosting economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Mubarak

NC131024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak this morning received at Al-'Urubah Palace W. Jayewickreme, Sri Lankan minister of plantation industries and public administration, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Sri Lankan ambassador to Cairo, A. Kathiramalanathan. The Sri Lankan minister arrived in Cairo on Friday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Reportage on Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister

Arrives in Cairo

NC122007 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt. He was welcomed at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Following his arrival, Lanc said the purpose of his visit is to maintain the strong relations between Egypt and Austria. He added: The Middle East region, or rather the entire world, is passing through a period when there is an increasing need to establish security. It is wise to discuss the situation in order to reach a common ground for achieving a solution that would stop the deterioration of the situation in the region.

Asked if Austria would embark on a new initiative to give an impetus to the peace efforts, Lanc said that he believed the time was not yet ripe for such an initiative, that there must be preparation for it, and that the purpose of his visit to Egypt and the Gulf states was to reach a common understanding on carrying out such an initiative.

Regarding Austria's stand on Israel's continued occupation of Lebanon, Lanc said: It is regrettable that the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon is continuing.

In a statement welcoming the Austrian foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the minister's visit to Egypt follows his visit to some Gulf states. 'Ali pointed out that Austria plays a constructive role in the Arab-Israeli conflict and that it made attempts in the past to end this conflict. 'Ali also said the purpose of Lanc's visit is to exchange views on regional problems, mainly the Lebanese and Palestinian problems.

'Ali emphasized the belief that the Middle East problem has an adverse effect on the situation in Europe and the Mediterranean and that Austria is turning its attention to this. He said: The Egyptian-Austrian discussions will therefore deal with the problems in the region and in the world, in addition to bilateral relations.

The foreign minister explained that the volume of trade between Egypt and Austria amounts to $150 million annually. Official discussions between 'Ali and the Austrian foreign minister are scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Received by Mubarak

NC131020 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received at Al-'Urubah Palace Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc. The meeting was attended by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Austrian Ambassador to Cairo Franz Bogen. The Austrian foreign minister arrived in Cairo last evening on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Makes Statement After Meeting

NC131250 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc. The meeting was attended by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Austrian ambassador to Cairo. After the meeting, 'Ali said the Middle East situation, particularly the Palestinian question, was discussed. He added that Austria plays a major role regarding the Palestinian question. He further said that the discussions also dealt with the need to make a move between now and the end of this year toward holding peace negotiations and that there was a general discussion of bilateral relations, which have been steadily growing for years. 'Ali also said: The Austrian foreign minister's visit will provide an opportunity to bolster bilateral cooperation. In conclusion, he said that the Iraqi-Iranian war was discussed and that more discussions are needed.

The Austrian foreign minister said his meeting with President Mubarak, who is considered a true friend, reflects the spirit of friendship between the two countries and their leaders. He added that he conveyed a message of greetings from the Austrian president to President Mubarak. The Austrian minister expressed his pleasure over the progress of bilateral relations, affirming that these relations have been bolstered in all economic and political fields during the visit of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to Austrian this year. He added that the remaining period of 1984 should be utilized for a thorough preparation to confront the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The Austrian foreign minister went on: We are in the course of preparing an evaluation of the situation. We are waiting for the results of the U.S. elections. Consequently, nobody should expect an initiative now in this regard to produce positive results.

Interviewed by AL-AHRAM

NC120737 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc emphasized that his country's policy toward the Middle East will remain unchanged and will remain based on firm principles, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right to set up their own state, as well as Israel's right to exist within secure borders. In an exclusive interview with *AL-AHRAM*, published today, Lanc expressed the conviction that the time is not ripe for a new initiative on the Middle East, given the current situation in the area and current international circumstances, such as the upcoming elections in Israel and the United States, as well as the lack of reconciliation in Lebanon and within the PLO ranks.

Continuing, the Austrian foreign minister pointed out that any new international effort to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute requires a number of prearranged conditions. The most important conditions are the following: There should be some changes in the Israeli Government's policy; there should be a major reconciliatory move within the PLO; there should be national reconciliation in Lebanon; and there should be support for the settlement from the Arab countries neighboring Israel — Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. He added that the sides which are directly concerned with the issue should lay down the bases of the solution and that the other countries should play an effective role in guaranteeing this solution and in securing international support for it.

The Austrian foreign minister explained that the purpose of his visit to Cairo, which will begin today, and his recent tour of the Gulf region is to exchange views on the situation in the Middle East and to define what steps should be taken during this period. He said: In view of occasional changes in events, we hope we will be in a better position to draft new ideas for practical steps and quick moves toward achieving a peaceful settlement of the Middle East dispute.

He added that this does not only depend on Austria, but also on the major sides in the dispute, particularly those who are directly involved, namely Israel, the Palestinians, and countries neighboring Israel.

Alluding to the superpowers' role in solving the Middle East problem, the Austrian foreign minister said that the U.S. assumption that they could unilaterally solve the problem has apparently failed. He stressed the need to find a way that would enable the Palestinians and Israelis to talk to each other and find a solution that should be guaranteed by the two superpowers.

On the European role in establishing peace in the region, the Austrian foreign minister said: In my opinion, I do not expect the European group to make any encouraging step unless there are changes in U.S. policy toward the Middle East. So far there are no signs indicating that this will happen. He said Austria is leading the move in Europe to make the Europeans become more aware of the Middle East. Asked if he expects a change in Israeli policy after the upcoming elections, Lanc said: I hope that this will take place, particularly concerning the issue of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. This is our opinion as a pre-arranged condition for any peaceful solution that would secure a homeland for the Palestinian people.

Meets With 'Ali

NC131421 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Official talks between Egypt and Austria began at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, headed the Egyptian side and Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc headed the Austrian delegation. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the talks.

After the talks, the Austrian foreign minister said both sides' views were identical on issues discussed. He added that the present talks will strengthen bilateral relations. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the discussions dealt with the Middle East situation and the efforts to resolve it. The discussions, he added, also dealt with African problems, mainly the situation in Chad and the Western Sahara, and with the Iraq-Iran war, as well as bilateral relations.

Delivers Speech at Banquet

NC131729 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Members of the Egyptian and Austrian delegations held a meeting tonight to discuss the question of bolstering bilateral relations in all domains. The Egyptian delegation is headed by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Austrian delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc. 'Ali had earlier hosted a banquet in honor of the Austrian foreign minister. 'Ali said during the banquet that Egypt has followed the course of peace and that the steps it has taken to achieve peace have not been matched by similar Israeli steps. He added: Israel's refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the continuation of its suppressive practices in the occupied Arab territory, particularly the settlements policy, impede the realization of the goal we seek — a just and comprehensive settlement in the region.

'Ali further said: The peace Egypt is seeking is a peace that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to determine their future and to establish their own state under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Ali went on to say that the Iraq-Iran war is a factor of instability in the Gulf area. He added: The world is urged to end this war. Out of its belief in the need to act to end this war, Egypt exerted efforts with the nonaligned states to realize this goal. The reaction of the states Egypt contacted reflects the international desire to search for ways and methods to establish peace. 'Ali then said: Relations between Egypt and Austria are strong. We wish to achieve further cooperation in all fields.

Austrian Foreign Minister Lanc delivered a speech in which he said: Austria's stand on the Middle East problem is firm and unchangeable. It is based on recognizing the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state. A just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem is based on the recognition of the secure international borders of the states in the region. He said Austria denounces Israel's West Bank settlements policy. He added that through this policy, Israel is creating instability and obstructing the future of the occupied territory.

Mubarak Receives Indonesian Minister 13 May

NC131120 Cairo MENA in English 1030 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 13 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received this morning Syadzali Munawir, Indonesian minister of religion, who is currently visiting here. The meeting was attended by Grand Shaykh of Al-Azhar Jad al-Haqq 'Ali and Barkah Tirtadjaya, Indonesian ambassador here. The Indonesian minister said later he conveyed a verbal message from President Suharto of Indonesia to President Husni Mubarak. He added that this visit here comes at the invitation of the grand shaykh of Al-Azhar. The Indonesian minister said further his talks with President Husni Mubarak had mainly centered on means of consolidating relations between Egypt and Indonesia particularly in religious, educational, and Islamic fields. He expressed hope that his country would obtain more aid from Egypt in the different fields, including professors to teach in Indonesian Islamic universities. Indonesia has some fourteen Islamic universities, the majority of whose professors have graduated from the University of Al-Azhar.

'Ali Interviewed by BBC on Gulf Mediation

NC111716 Cairo MENA in English 1650 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 11 (MENA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed anew that Egypt welcomes any endavours for pushing forward peace steps in the Middle East.

Interviewed by the BBC Hasan 'Ali said the international conference for resolving the Palestinian problem is approved by Egypt, but Cairo believes that the first step should be adopted by the parties concerned to this problem. He also welcomed efforts exerted by the UN secretary general which are also agreed upon by the parties concerned.

Replying to a question on whether Egypt approves the international conference due to its despair of the American role, Hasan 'Ali said it is not a matter of despair, but Egypt has never opposed any efforts exerted by the UN secretary general, as she is keen to push forward peace efforts in the region.

On Egyptian efforts to bring the Gulf war to an end, Hasan 'Ali said the Egyptian proposals to this effect were welcomed by the non-aligned countries, as they were constructive and logical and could meet the demands of the two sides.

The problem lies in Iran's rejection of the various mediations, Hasan 'Ali said, adding that these proposals should now be made without the need for an immediate response from Iran, but to wait till positions are crystallized in due time. It is not proposed that the non-aligned countries would form an emergency force to enforce a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran in case they approved this mediation, Hasan 'Ali said, adding that the United Nations emergency forces could be deployed in a future stage.

He voiced belief that the United Nations would never reject such a mission, particularly as the two countries and the other countries of the world are willing to bring this war to a halt. Peace is the base, while war is the exception, Hasan 'Ali said, underlining that no country could infinitely go through a war, but the day will come when a ceasefire could be reached.

Ghali Confers With PRC Ambassador 12 May

NC121231 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Today Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the PRC ambassador to Cairo. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the Egyptian initiative to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and the outcome of Egypt's contacts with the nonaligned states to achieve this objective. The PRC ambassador briefed Dr Ghali on the outcome of U.S. President Reagan's talks with PRC leaders.

Dr Ghali Defends Moves To End Gulf War

GF121818 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (WAKH) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, denied that Egypt's objective behind its plan to end the Gulf war is to prove its presence in the political arena due to its suffering from the Arab isolation. In a statement published in the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM* today, Dr Ghali added that the deaths, wasted money, and destruction caused by this war are enough to justify Egypt's endeavors to establish peace between two Islamic countries and two Muslim peoples like Iraq and Iran. He said that the continuation of the Gulf war is a dangerous matter that can lead to dangerous consequences, not only in the Gulf region but also in the entire Middle East region, and that the effort to end this war is an objective in itself. He said that Egypt does not need to prove its presence in the international arena.

Answering a question on the fact that Egypt presented its plan without referring to the Islamic Conference Organization, he said: We concentrate on the objective and not on the means. We do not differentiate between the Nonaligned Movement and the ICO. He said: The ICO has made several steps to contribute to the settlement of this crisis, but these steps were unsuccessful, so we have to make a new attempt.

Dr Ghali also denied any cooling in Egyptian-U.S. relations which he described as excellent. He said: The excellent relations do not mean that we view matters the same way Washington does, but we agree on some matters and we differ on others.

He again described Egyptian-Israeli relations as cold. He said: Egypt signed a peace agreement with Israel and we are committed to our obligations and abide by the articles of the agreements, but Israel's behavior and policies led to reducing the temperature of this peace to the zero level. He said that Israel does not want to understand that Egypt is an Arab country and geographically, historically, culturally, and politically it belongs to the Arab world. Egyptian-Israeli relations cannot be isolated from what is happening in the Arab arena.

Regarding reports saying that Egypt's severance of relations with any country that transfers its embassy to occupied Jerusalem achieves an important objective in Israeli policy to isolate Egypt, Dr Ghali said: This matter is related to an important principle and our position toward the Jerusalem issue and Arab rights is known. Those who talk about Egypt are pursuing their own illusions. We have more than 120 embassies in the different continents and severing relations with two countries in Latin America or more does not at all help in isolating Egypt.

Jordanian Information Minister Departs Cairo

NC121559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — Jordanian Information Minister Layla Sharaf left Cairo this afternoon following a visit of several days to Egypt. She had attended the nonaligned information and communications ministers conference, which ended 2 days ago.

Trade Contract Signed With USSR 13 May

NC131347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — Egypt and the Soviet Union today signed an 8 million dollar unit [dular hisabi] contract providing for the supply of spare parts for vehicles and tractors. The agreement was signed by Ihad Abazah, chairman of the General Company for Engineering Works, which is attached to the Economy Ministry, and by the representative of the Soviet trade agency in Egypt.

Agreement Signed With Visiting Soviet Delegation

NC141057 Cairo MENA in English 0925 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 14 (MENA) — The Egyptian Iron and Steel company signed today with a visiting Soviet delegation an agreement whereby the Soviet side will supply some equipment and spare parts to a number of the company's plants and furnaces in Hulwan. The company's board chairman Diya' ad-Din Tantawi said the equipment will be imported within 24 months at a cost of 6.3 million pounds. Meanwhile, an Egyptian industrial delegation leaves tomorrow for Moscow led by Hilmi 'Umar, chairman of the public sector authority for chemical industries, on a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union for talks with officials there on industrial cooperation between Egypt and the USSR. On the other hand, Egypt agreed to export steel to the Federal Republic of Germany and Bangladesh to the tune of five million dollas.

Army Conducts Field Exercises in Suez Area

NC121654 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Suez, May 12 (MENA) — The Third Field Army in the Suez zone held today artillery exercises in mountainous terrain to defend mountain passes. The exercises used field guns of various calibers to stem an attack through the mountain passes. Helicopters lifted heavy artillery and deposited it on top of commanding heights. The first stage of the exercises stopped attackers in front of the advanced defence line. The second stage maneuvered inside the passes to prepare for the counter-attack. In the third stage the artillery helped the counter-attackers to regain the ground. Defence Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, who reviewed the exercises, said Egyptian artillery is one of the best forces in the area. He added that today's exercises were of an advanced stage as they involved mountain terrain which requires special tactics.

Third Army Commander Major General Hasan az-Zayyat said today's exercises were to train the artillery in supporting ground forces in a defensive battle inside mountain terrain. The exercises, he added, were to demonstrate that well-trained, well-armed forces can make it impossible for any attackers to break through the mountain passes.

Navy, Air Force To Hold Annual Maneuvers

NC121715 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 12 (MENA) — The Navy will open tomorrow its week-long annual maneuvres in the high seas. Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said the climax of the manoeuvres would take place next Saturday, involving bombardment with the latest naval missiles received by Egypt. He added that the latest acquired warships would take part in the maneuvres, including Spanish-made frigates. Meanwhile, he said, the Air Force is preparing to hold its annual maneuvres in the next few days.

Satellite To Be Launched Within Next 3 Years

JN130924 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 May 84 p1

[Text] Cairo — Egypt yesterday announced that it will launch its first satellite during the next 3 years. This came in an exclusive statement by Egypt's Information Minister Safwat ash-Sharif to the *AR-RA'Y* correspondent in Cairo. He said that Egypt will be the first Arab country to launch its own satellite, thus competing with the Zionist enemy which also intends to launch its own satellite soon.

Cairo Radio on Antigovernment Campaigns

NC111444 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 May 84

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "How the Change Should Be Effected"]

[Text] Some opposition writers are launching a violent campaign against the government. Under the rules of democracy we cannot object to this campaign, nor is it our business to defend the government or the ruling party. Moreover, we do not claim that this government, despite its strenuous efforts, has succeeded in eliminating all the people's problems. The people are well aware that no government can realize all their aspirations and alleviate all their sufferings overnight. The emergence of this vicious campaign against the government, however, confirms the lies of those who claim that Egypt today is a sound democratic country that can safeguard free speech, even if it were abusive. If we have anything against some of these abusive words, it is that the only solutions they offer are substituting some officials with others or a party with another.

We believe these opposition campaigns against the government can only backfire. These campaigns contain exaggerations which do not deceive the people and do not offer them anything that can convince them that a real change in their lives can come about by a more useful way than that of changing parties and officials. The people can only describe as hypocrites those who stab the government in the back and pretend to be close to its leadership on the pretext that they are defending democracy. They say that the march of this democracy can only be orderly if this leadership continues to exist. The people do not believe this. They do not believe that only a small group of people have the right to inherit heroism and glory. As for those who confine the incidents of corruption, violence, and coercion to the last three decades of Egypt's history, they are revealing their ignorance or malevolent intentions or are lying in wait to avenge what had befallen them during these three decades.

The sufferings of the people are due to events that have lasted centuries and ages — events that have left in the people deep-seated effects that had repercussions on all of them and on their lives. A real change in our lives should start from within us so as to uproot all these effects — a change that will be effected by changing ourselves. Everyone of us should start by changing himself and by doing for others what he would do for himself. We must not rush results in the manner in which the opposition writers are rushing in order to achieve a limited change.

Air Force Attacks Two Naval Targets in Gulf

JN140715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0704 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With the help of Almighty God and with great success, our capable Air Force carried out a successful air strike against two large naval targets south of the Iranian Khark Island on the night of 13-14 May 1984. Our bold aircraft returned safely to base after accomplishing their mission, praise be to God.

Thus, we confirm our great ability to continue our siege of Khark Island and the Iranian ports in the Arab Gulf and to strike at any oil tanker or naval target that tries to approach them.

It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 14 May 1984

Responsibility for Attack on Kuwaiti Tanker Denied

LD131958 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1922 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Baghdad: Iraq has (?tonight) denied assumptions that the Kuwaiti oil tanker which was hit by a missile during its voyage in the Gulf today was the target of an attack by the Iraqi forces.

Information Minister Statement

JN132017 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stated that Iraq has not carried out any naval or air activity in the Arab Gulf area since last Wednesday.

The statement of the Iraqi minister of culture and information to INA this evening comes in reply to news agency reports that a Kuwaiti oil tanker *"Umm Casbah"* was hit by a missile fired from an unidentified aircraft.

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,462 - 11 May

JN111631 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 May 84

[Communique No 1,462 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 11 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The triumphant forces of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their daring operations at the front against the ruling Iranian clique of evil and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units used various types of weapons to pound enemy positions and engineering equipment east of Basra, killing a number of enemy men and wounding others. In addition, five vehicles were destroyed and three others were damaged, and one hardware stockpile was destroyed. Our forces also destroyed one infantry position, killing those manning it.

2. Our helicopter gunships today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units east of Basra, scoring accurate hits. Our helicopters destroyed six troop assembly points, one excavator, one large fuel tank, and two trucks. All of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Sighting a number of enemy men opposite its positions in the northern sector of the front, one of our units used all types of weapons to pound them, killing two enemy men and forcing the others to flee.

4. One of our forward units in the central sector of the front pounded enemy positions opposite Iraqi positions, destroying three observation posts and one infantry position.

5. Two were killed in the Maysan sector.

6. Using heavy artillery, the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, Chandri and their environs last night and today. The shelling martyred a civilian in Basra; destroyed six houses and an elementary school, and damaged three other houses and a car in Khanaqin; and damaged a number of civilian establishments in Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and Chandri.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 May 1984.

No 1,463 - 12 May

JN121634 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 84

[Communique No 1,463 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 12 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great capability, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities against the forces of the rancorous Khomeyniite enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our brave forward units fired various types of weapons at the enemy positions, troop concerntrations, and vehicles in the areas opposite our positions east of Basra, killing two, wounding others, and destroying nine vehicles, two excavators, and two hardware stockpiles.

2. Our helicopter gunships carried out valiant combat missions today against the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the operational area east of Basra, scoring effective hits. The known enemy losses amounted to the destruction of five assembly points, four vehicles, one excavator, and one antiaircraft weapon emplacement. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely and successfully, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units fired on some enemy troops trying to approach its forward positions in the northern sector of the battlefield and forced them to flee. One hardware stockpile was destroyed. Elsewhere in the same sector, fresh groups of Iranian military men who were fleeing the oppression of the criminal Khomeyniite regime sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

4. Three were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminal clique that is ruling in Iran shelled Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Sayyid Sadiq, Chandri, and their environs with heavy artillery today. The enemy shelling damaged several civilian properties in Basra; wounded two civilians, destroyed three houses, and damaged five other houses, one elementary school, four civilian cars, and some orchards in Khanaqin; wounded two children, and damaged three houses in Mandali; and wounded one citizen in Sayyid Sadiq.
[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 May 1984.

No 1,464 - 13 May

JN131628 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1603 GMT 13 May 84

[Communique No 1,464 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 13 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces continue their activities against the forces of the suspect Khomeyniite regime in the sectors of operations. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units shelled enemy positions, armored concentrations, military hardware, and engineering equipment in the east of Basra sector of operations, killing two, wounding many, and destroying three vehicles, one piece of engineering equipment, and one hardware stockpile.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships today attacked enemy positions, troop concentrations, and military hardware in the areas opposite our forward units positions east of Basra, destroying eight enemy positions, one boat, and one vehicle. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units pounded several enemy elements, enemy positions, and equipment in the central sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing or wounding six, and destroying one excavator and two infantry positions.

4. The clique of evil and charlatanism in Iran today shelled Basra, Mandali, Khurmal, and their suburbs with heavy artillery. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling two houses were damaged in Mandali and several civilian installations were damaged in Basra and Khurmal.
[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 May 1984

Foreign Ministry Replies to Iranian Threats

JN132054 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] In reply to the statement issued by the Iranian regime's Foreign Ministry this evening, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: Since 28 September 1980, Iraq has been calling for a cease-fire and for settling the conflict peacefully. Iraq accepted the first Security Council resolution issued on the aforementioned day which called for a cease-fire. Iraq has also accepted and supported all resolutions and calls aimed at solving the conflict peacefully. It took the first step by calling for an end to military operations in the Gulf region. Iraq accepted Security Council Resolution 540, dated 31 October 1983, which called for ending military operations in the Gulf and guaranteeing the rights of all parties to free navigation and use of the Gulf's ports and installations.

The Iranian regime is the party that has arrogantly rejected peace calls and Security Council and international organizations resolutions. It is the party that arrogantly rejected Security Council Resolution 540 and directed threats against Iraq and the Gulf states. What does the Iranian regime expect from this stand?

Iraq can only face threats and aggression through confrontation and by inflicting on the arrogant aggressor what it deserves in terms of losses as a result of its insistence on aggression and its hollow stands of arrogance and intransigence. Iraq must undoubtedly confront the aggressors everywhere using every means on land, sea, and in the air.

The ruling Iranian regime alone will bear the complete responsibility for any situation that may arise in the Gulf and the region and which might cause anxiety and unrest and encourage the presence and escalation of the influence of foreign forces.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also affirmed that the Iranian regime stands to lose the most by insisting on this aggressive and short-sighted policy. The Iranian Foreign Ministry had issued a statement this evening reflecting the regime's anxiety and deep worry over the victorious Iraqi forces' military operations in the Gulf region during recent weeks. The statement said that the Iranian regime will not tolerate what it called any security disruption in the Gulf.

President Chairs Cabinet Meeting 13 May

JN131019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1004 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn chaired a 4-hour Cabinet meeting here today. The Cabinet discussed issues on its agenda and made appropriate decisions on them. The meeting was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; Taha Yasir Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; RCC members; members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; director of the president's office; Cabinet members; and a number of state officials.

President Receives Reply Cable From Chernenko

JN121520 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 84

["Text" of cable President Saddam Husayn received from Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko — date not given]

[Text] His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: Thank you for your congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of my election as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. I am confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq will develop successfully in the interest of the two countries' peoples.

[Signed] Konstantin Chernenko

Syrian Aircraft Carrying Weapons to Iran

GF121258 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Syrian military cargo aircraft have for some time been making regular flights carrying military hardware and equipment for the Iranian regime.

The Paris-based magazine *AL-WATAN AL'ARABI* reported today that the military airport in Tabriz is receiving arms-laden military aircraft from the Syrian regime being carried by Syrian aircraft; in addition, aircraft of the Iranian regime are carrying out the same mission from Syrian airports which have been prepared for this purpose.

The magazine affirmed that military advisers to the Hafiz al-Asad regime, who are residing on Dr Sharia'ti Street, formerly Shamran Street, are provided with special protection by massive forces by the Iranian regime. The movements of the officers and advisers of the Syrian regime are shrouded in secrecy and take place under tight security measures.

The magazine also revealed that coordinated exchanges by military and civilian officials of both regimes have taken place within the framework of enhancing the suspect alliance between them. This alliance is founded on Iran's supplying oil to Damascus which is known for its stands against pan-Arab interests and support for the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Spokesman on Iranian Refugees Sent to Sweden

JN121230 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) — An official spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has stated that a group of Iranian refugees was sent to Sweden yesterday, Friday, morning.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the dispatch of this Iranian group stems from Iraq's humanitarian and principled stands and Iraq's respect for all international conventions and norms. He added that this move was made following coordination with the Swedish Embassy and the Red Cross committee in Baghdad. The spokesman said that the facilities it offers to the Iranian refugees once again express Iraq's respect for the oppressed Iranian peoples and for their choice to live a free, dignified, and secure life.

The spokesman added that since the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq, thousands of Iranians have sought refuge in Iraqi territory to escape from the Khomeyniite regime's inferno and its oppressive and arbitrary measures, and that the Iraqi Government has done its best to provide them with all the requisites for a dignified life. The Iraqi Government has also given them complete freedom in choosing to remain guests in Iraq or to leave for any other country which may agree to host them.

The spokesman said that in the past, the Iraqi Government had enabled a group of these Iranian refugees to leave for these countries in cooperation with the embassies of the concerned countries and the Red Cross committee in Baghdad.

ATH-THAWRAH on Syrian Forces' Lebanon Movements

JN140741 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) — Arrivals in the Jordanian capital have said that the removal of Syrian forces and equipment to Syrian territory is currently being witnessed along the the Syrian border with northern Lebanon. This was published by *ATH-THAWRAH* here today. The paper said that the evacuation of these forces from their positions and points of concentration included most districts of northern Lebanon. The paper added that scores of military vehicles and trucks are daily seen moving within this framework. It appears that the sudden Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon is directly related to the deteriorating internal situation in Syria.

According to information received in the Jordanian capital the struggle as to who will succeed the Syrian regime's President Hafiz al-Asad has come to a head and is currently taking several forms.

This information said that distributing positions to 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rifa't al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah had not ended the power struggle. Apparently the parties supporting the three Syrian vice presidents are not happy with the responsibilities and authorities entrusted to them, particularly since the brother of the Syrian regime's president has been given a freer hand than before in the Syrian military establishment and currently possesses power and the implements of change second only to his brother, Hafiz al-Asad. In another development, reports citing economic sources in Damascus said that the deficit this year in the Syrian balance of trade amounted to $ 1.4 billion and that the hard currency reserve has almost run out.

The reports affirmed that the economic assistance which the Syrian regime renders to the Iranian regime in its war against Iraq is one of the main reasons behind this deteriorating situation. This is in addition to the big reduction in the subsidies which the Syrian regime is receiving from the Arab countries.

Air Defense System Obtained From Soviet Union

JN111828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1752 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Amman, 11 May (INA) — Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat asserted that Jordan has obtained an air defense system from the Soviet Union after the United States refused to supply it with that system. In a television interview broadcast here tonight, 'Ubaydat said that this system is to help Jordan defend itself. He pointed out that there is a new Jordanian trend to diversify the sources of its weapons and not confine them to one source, so that Jordan will not be liable to political blackmail. The Jordanian prime minister called for holding an urgent Arab summit to face the dangers that beset the Arab nation.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Ubaydat affirmed that in confronting the Iranian aggression, Iraq is defending its soil and borders and that it is exercising its legitimate right of defense. He said that the Iranian regime considers all of the Arab countries that did not support it in its war against Iraq to be a party to this war. He said that Syria has a special relationship with the Iranian regime. Syria has never been a party to any proposed solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war. 'Ubaydat also said that the Khomeyniite policy, which is based on religious fanaticism, will only produce further fanaticism and differences. As a result of this fanaticism, our identity will be threatened. This is commensurate with the aims of Zionism, which is also a fanatic, racist movement.

BBC Phone-in Interview With King Husayn

TA131131 London BBC World Service in English
1110 GMT 13 May 84

[International phone-in interview program by Michael Charleton with King Husayn on 13 May — live]

[Text][Charleton] Good morning to you from London. Our guest today is His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. The king has proved a formidable personality who has played a (?signal) part in the turbulent politics of the Middle East since he became king in Jordan more than 30 years ago. Your Majesty, good morning to you. It is nice to have you with us.

[Husayn] Good morning to you, sir.

[Charleton] I have seen you wearing earphones of a pilot and of a ham radio operator in Amman, in Jordan, but I have never seen you, I think, in this situation before. Is this the first time you have done something like that?

[Husayn] This is very much the first time and I feel privileged and happy to be with you today.

[Charleton] Well, we have a host of questions for you, both from Britain and from all over the world. And let me remind all of you listening that King Husayn rules a small country which is haunted by history. It has 2.5 million people, more than half of whom are Palestinians, and, over the years, the king has worked with no fewer than seven American presidents to try to bring about a lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and the Arab states. He survived at least 11 known attempts on his own life and, with an unfailing personal courage and courtesy, he has kept safe with the Arab heritage by remaining a friend of the United States and an interlocutor between East and West.

Yet among the King's most recent assessments was his judgment in these words that the whole situation is hopeless and the United States has forsaken its position as a nation that stands by its commitments and its words. The painful and unhappy paradox for King Husayn is that while he has been the Arab leader perhaps most ready to acknowledge the realities of Israel's existence, of all the territories that Israel has conquered, it is the most reluctant to give up that which belongs to Jordan.

If you would like to ask King Husayn of Jordan, the number to ring is, no matter where you are in the world, London 5804411. We will make a note of your question and if it is one of those selected we will ring you back. Now, Sir, if you are ready?

[Husayn] We are ready, Sir.

[Charleton] Okay, your first question comes, predictably I should say, from Jerusalem, where Mr Jamil Hamad is on the line. Mr Hamad, can you hear me? Will you go ahead and put your question to King Husayn now, please?

[Hamad] Yes, thank you. Your Majesty, will you allow me, Sir, to convey to you that we Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are very desperate and pessimistic. There is a growing sense of isolation, not only because Israel is not making any effort toward peace, but also because of the Arab disunity, the divisions within the PLO, and conflicting arguments about your commitment to the Rabat resolution, and the failure, also, to achieve any kind of Jordanian-Palestinian combination. In such a situation....

[Charleton, interrupting] Mr Hamad, I think there is quite a lot for King Husayn to answer there. So if we may leave it there for the moment and get him to respond to you. Your Majesty, a growing sense of isolation, your questioner from Jerusalem says on the part of Palestinians. He is worried about your failure to support the Rabat resolution about the PLO and your failure also to bring about any coordination, effective coordination, between the Palestinians and Jordan. So what do you respond to him?

[Husayn] Mr Hamad, I would like to say here that you probably [words indistinct] to feel most strongly about the very sad and very difficult conditions under which you and our brethren in the West Bank and in Gaza survived and have done so for all the years that have passed under occupation. I would like to assure you that our position is very, very clear. We are committed to the establishment of a just and durable peace. We will do everything we can — and we have done everything we could so far under very, very difficult circumstances — to try to address adequately the problems that you face and we face. I would like to say that we feel that we cannot enjoy life or peace so long as conditions continue as they are in the area in which you are. And there will come a day hopefully when you will enjoy your freedom and maintain your identity and we believe that above and beyond that we are members of one family. We recognize the rights of all to live in peace and security, but we seek the admission of our rights, your rights, to do so.

[Charleton] Mr Hamad, I'd like you to follow that up, if you would briefly. Do you have something more specific that you would like to put to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan here in London?

[Hamad] First of all I would like to express my gratitude to His Majesty replying to my answer. I could feel his sincerity and his concern about the Palestinians in the occupied areas, but I would like the king to try to corner Israel politically and save whatever is left of our homeland.

[Charleton] To try to corner Israel politically, Your Majesty, does that lie within your jurisdiction? Is it possible for you to make a move towards that end?

[Husayn] There are obviously a number of constraints. We are trying to put across the following: Security Council Resolution 242, which has its (?as its preamble) the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by all, cannot be a subject of negotiation. We can meet to try to negotiate its implementation and we have been trying for so many years. I can assure you that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to ask the Israelis, very frankly and very openly, to make their position even clearer than it has. Unfortunately, to our way of thinking it appears at the moment to be one where they claim that the land is theirs, that the problem is a problem of people, not of land, and yet they seek to negotiate over principles. This is really the difficulty that we face.

You asked about Rabat. I represented the Arab heads of states in visits to four of the permanent members of the Security Council. I also visited the United States and ironically everywhere the words were the same. Everyone believes that a solution to the Palestinian problem, to the Arab-Israeli problem, must be based on the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. And this we have adopted and we are trying to see movement toward its implementation.

[Charleton] Mr Hamad, thank you very much for your question in Jerusalem and goodbye to you, because I think this question of Resolution 242, which the king we know believes to be at the heart of any possible settlement between the Arabs and Israel, is likely to crop up in this next question which comes to you, Your Majesty, from Poland from (Chesary Gavlick). Mr (Gavlick), where about in Poland?

[Mr Gavlick] Yes, I am in (Roslatch).

[Charleton] In (Roslatch), yes. And would you go ahead and ask your question now please?

[Gavlick] Okay. Your Majesty and Mr Charleton, good morning. The question is: Is real progress on the West Bank question still possible in face of Israeli settlements still going on?

[Husayn] It may be possible for a period of time, but I believe that [words indistinct] the conditions are really getting worse and we are almost getting insurmountable obstacles in the path of peace. Every new settlement is really an added obstacle to the attainment of a just and durable peace in our (?area).

[Charleton] Mr (Gavlick), would you like to come back on that?

[Gavlick] Don't know. (?Suit yourself).

[Charleton] Well, let me ask His Majesty whether he thinks that Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank has passed the point of no return.

[Husayn] It looks pretty serious. I don't think that if there is genuine good will within the area and this world to help us all move toward the establishment of peace that these obstacles are totally insurmountable. The alternative to lack of progress towards peace is the deterioration of the situation. It could be very, very dangerous to all in the area, their future, and maybe world peace. So we must keep trying.

[Charleton] May I just remind people that 242 — which incidentally you helped to draft, didn't you? after the 1967 war — was approved by the United States and the Soviet Union and calls on Israel to relinquish occupied territories in return for peace. But what do you think today of the American position on Resolution 242 in view of the great disappointment that you have been expressing about American policy in recent weeks?

[Husayn] The position is clear. The Reagan plan, for example, mentions 242 as a foundation for any progress towards the establishment of peace and it has been a common denominator in all initiatives for the establishment of peace so far. But what we have told our American friends time and again is that we cannot deal with them as an ally of Israel or as a mediator, but as the superpower which, together with us, contributed towards the drafting and formulation of Security Council Resolution 242.

[Charleton] But you believe American support for 242 is eroding, in view of what you have been saying?

[Husayn] Yes, certainly, that appears to be the case. At the moment, after all, these settlements are created through American material help. Israeli military might in any event is the result of continued American support. In regard to the Reagan plan, for example, the actions were first an Israeli outright rejection of the plan and that was followed by an intensification of the settlement activities. So this is the kind of problem that we face, while the United States, we feel, could do more to ensure that what it proposes for peace is respected by all, but it is not a problem that we face. It is a problem that they have to deal with, with Israel.

[Charleton] President Carter, for example, said that the settlements were illegal. President Reagan says they are not illegal, but an obstacle to peace.

[Husayn] Well, I am afraid that at this rate pretty soon there will be just an eyesore.

[Charleton] In other words, you think the Americans are giving up on the possibility of the settlement you believe is essential, which is a formula of land in return for peace.

[Husayn] And not only the settlements, but the question of human rights, the question of the rights of people that are to express themselves. They have approached me recently, and they have approached the PLO, pleading with us to work together, and at the same time to do all we could for the establishment of peace and to remove the impossible conditions [word indistinct] of the Israelis. But, unfortunately, the people in the West Bank and in Gaza are denied the right to move out to express themselves on this point in a meaningful way.

[Charleton] Also I would like to move on from Poland and [words indistinct] a question to you this morning from (Roslatch) from Mr (Gavlick). Thanks for your questions. We can move now to (Skegnos) in Lincolnshire here in England, where Dr (Shihdahl)... Are you listening to us Dr (Shihdahl)? Will you put your question to the king now please?

[(Shihdahl)] Yes. Good morning Your Majesty and Mr Charleton.

[Charleton] Good morning to you.

[(Shihdahl)] My question is, with respect, why is it that Jordan [words indistinct] are supporting Iraq in [word indistinct] despite the fact that the king was so friendly with the late shah and his people?

[Charleton] Dr (Shihdahl), you sound to me as if you are in terrestrial space somewhere rather than Lincolnshire. So I will just repeat your question if I may. It is not a very good line. Why are the Jordanians, Your Majesty, supporting Iraq against Iran despite the fact that you, Sir, were so friendly with the shah of Iran?

[Husayn] Well, the matter is that Jordan has always sought to have the best relations with Iran, if Iran responded in the same way. On the other hand, as far as the war that unfortunately is raging now for almost 4 years, we believe that this could have been averted and could have been stopped at any time if it were an issue of territorial adjustment or border rectifications. Then, obviously, the way would have been through negotiations and on the negotiating table.

The other dimension of it is obviously to [word indistinct] relations between Iran and Iraq on the common foundations of mutual respect, noninterference in the affairs of each other, and that should apply also to Iran and to other neighbors. There was an undeclared war before the final eruption that caused us to see these series of tragedies of so many years. Iran, historically, annexed (Maharabistan), that became Khuzestan, and the argument of late has been Shatt al-'Arab.

Beyond that, as far as Iraq is concerned, I believe that Iraq has been positive and responding favorably to every attempt to have the initiative to end hostilities and negotiate. We are also members of the Arab League. We have the Arab League Charter. We have the joint defense agreements, that compel us to stand by [word indistinct] when they are threatened.

[Charleton] Dr (Shihdahl), would you like to come back and ask something more about this question about the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq?

[(Shihdahl)] Yes. My second question is why is Muslim [word indistinct] is fighting Muslim [words indistinct] and is it a fear [words indistinct]?

[Charleton] I might have to repeat that question, because we have a poor line. Why are Muslim brothers fighting Muslim brothers, Your Majesty? And, the doctor appears to think that the particular interest you have is that you see a threat to yourself in what happened to the shah. And I take it what he means by that is the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the area.

[Husayn] I do not think that this is a threat to me, Sir, and a proud descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, and beyond that, I do not believe that Islamic fundamentalism is a threat. It is a threat if it is manipulated from outside. However, the tragedy of Muslims fighting Muslims is really one that probably is part of the answer that I would give. I believe that there is an attempt to create another rift between Muslims, Shi'ites, and Sunnis, and that this is probably the cause why this war has continued so far, and this is what we have resisted. Thank God, Iraq has held together as one nation, Sunni and Shi'ite alike. And if this were to be reversed in any form or way, the disaster would not only overtake Iraq but the entire area. It would be far worse than anything that we have lived through until now.

[Charleton] Your Majesty, can you just explain a little more what is the nature of your commitment to Iraq in the Gulf war? How far are you prepared to take that?

[Husayn] Well, we support them in all their attempts to bring this war to an end. We would like to see the border rectifications that were agreed upon in the past upheld. There is enough in terms of history to make that possible. If there are any rights, it could be discussed and worked out. And the relations between Iran and Iraq, and between Iran and all our other brethren in the area should be based on mutual respect and noninterference in the affairs of each other.

[Charleton] But I really meant in terms of a military commitment. I mean how far are you prepared to push this?

[Husayn] We will help as much as we can. We will certainly view with great concern the possibility that Iraq could collapse, heaven forbid. (?Frankly) at the present [words indistinct] I don't think it will. Or that a threat would grow and the menace would grow that would [word indistinct] fragmentation and disaster in the Arab world as a whole as a result of anything that happens.

[Charleton] That there should be no doubt about your determination to become involved militarily if there were an imminent threat of the collapse of Iraq.

[Husayn] I do not see that this is likely so. I do not think that Iraq is in need of support and our means are limited, in any event, in terms of manpower. But in any other way that we can help, we have done so in the past and we will continue to do so util a resolution [word indistinct].

[Charleton] Your next question, Sir, comes from the other side of the world, from the southern hemisphere, from Mrs Annie Liang. Mrs Liang — I hope I pronounce that correctly — who lives in Singapore and who is calling King Husayn of Jordan is with me here in London this morning from Singapore. Mrs Liang, good morning to you.

[Liang] Good morning to you.

[Charleton] Would you ask your question now please?

[Liang] Yes please, I would like to ask His Majesty, instead of supplying money to 'Arafat, you know, to buy more arms. Is it not better to do it in a more practical way, by using the money to build more schools and hospitals for the Palestinian people?

[Charleton] Well, [words indistinct] the king that he is supplying arms for 'Arafat. Are you, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] No, we are not, of course, and [words indistinct] in fact, then you probably would not realize that — as many do not in the world — that we are not materially able to support many in this world. We are trying to build our country and trying to make it a model to others and a good example in every way.

[Charleton] What about the second part of Mrs Liang's question from Singapore? About your record as practically helping the Palestinians?

[Husayn] We are committed to their cause, and in terms of their rights, we believe they have a very just cause and we are part of it. Part of this struggle until they regain their rights in their homeland.

[Charleton] Are you content with the king's answer, Mrs Linag in Singapore?

[Liang] Yes, yes.

[Charleton] Thank you for ringing us in London this morning. Our next question, Your Majesty, comes from Dusseldorf in Germany, from Mr Arnon Arda. Have I pronounced that correctly, Mr Arda?

[Arda] Well, without an R: H — A — R. [as heard]

[Charleton] Near enough, thank you very much. What is your question?

[Arda] Well, first good morning to you and Your Majesty. It is not very pleasant what I am going to ask but, during the 19 years of Jordanian rule, in Jerusalem all synagogues were destroyed and used as garbage disposal. One of them, the synagogue of my wife's ancestors, which was built in the 17th century. On top of the ancient cemetery on the Mount of Olives, a modern hotel was built. Jews had no access to their holy place, the Wailing Wall. Now, with all the claims of Jordan to get Jerusalem back, why should they be entrusted with these places now after this not very good record?

[Charleton] Now, what is your answer, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] Well, if any such event did take place, then obviously I feel it is indeed tragic. We have a very deep respect, as you know, for all holy places that are dear to all followers of [word indistinct] monotheistic religions. And, in any event, we feel that Jerusalem is far too important for it to be limited to becoming a political capital of a state, when there is not a situation which is that of peace. We want Jerusalem to be the symbol of peace. We want it to be the meeting place, we want it to be the essence of peace in the future. The rights of both sides must be fully recognized there and in terms of any solution, so it must be a territory for peace. It must be total withdrawal for total peace but, in that context, Jerusalem should be an open city and the Arab part under Arab sovereignty and the Israeli part under Israeli sovereignty. But, we should try to make of it an example that is rather unique in this world. And this is what we hope will happen.

[Charleton] Total peace. Mr Arda in Dusseldorf: This is the king's formula in return for recognition of Israel's right to exist and secure borders. What is your own feeling about that?

[Arda] Well, it is a formula of the prophets and I join in his wishes that something could be done and all this in real life, but if I take the partial reactions on both sides, sometimes one thinks they are not leading up to this magnificent dream, so let us reach other so we both will be able to see Jerusalem become a city of peace.

[Husayn] Thank you, Sir, and I would like to say that if anything remains in life in terms of an objective, that is to see that or to contribute towards that end. And I really hope that somehow it will (?happen).

[Charleton] Mr Arda, thank you for calling us this morning. Next call, Your Majesty, from London, from Mr (Saniri) Gilbert in London. Mr Gilbert, are you listening to us? You sound nice and close. Your Majesty, your next question from London for you.

[Gilbert] Your Majesty, I am very honored to be able to put to you this question. I am a student of economics at St Anthony's College in Oxford and, if I may, I would like to ask a question related to economics. To what extent does Your Majesty feel that regional political considerations affect the domestic and the economic development of Jordan? If I may, Sir.

[Husayn] Well, they obviously do, Sir, very much indeed, Mr Gilbert. We live, we build, we at the same time feel the uncertainty of every day. I believe that our people are a great people, and they are determined to move ahead in every field and every way. Yet, there are problems. If you take, for example, the dimension of water resources, other resources. If there were peace, the situation would be entirely different, to all of us and for the entire area.

[Charleton] Your Majesty, you said recently that the whole situation on the ground is being altered by the Israelis in many of these respects. Can you elaborate on that?

[Husayn] Well, through the settlements, for example, the confiscation of land, demographically speaking, the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza. I do not believe that there is any resemblance to what they were in the past. And in addition to that, if we take for example, the dimension of water, which was probably a cause of the tragedy of 1967, the diversion of the water of the River Jordan to the Negev (?outside) the basin of the Jordan. Now, in addition to that, we do not know how to [word indistinct], but the Israelis are in southern Lebanon.

I remember in 1964, in the first Arab summit I ever attended, warning my colleagues that there was a problem there and so that we should find a solution to the Lebanese-Israeli problem, either keep it outside the struggle or be aware of the danger to the head waters of the Jordan. We have certain difficulties in the [word indistinct] over the Yarmuk River. The water in the occupied territories as well, this I believe considered to be a part of the Israeli assets there. So, there are the real problems that are there in addition to the human dimension of course.

[Charleton] [Words indistinct] Mr Gilbert, do you wish to follow that up with the king?

[Gilbert] Well, I would like to say that I have been very impressed by the domestic economic management of Jordan so far in years of turbulence and I am sure that if peace prevailed, fantastic conditions will prevail then anyway. That is my own feeling, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you very very much indeed, Sir, and good luck to you in your studies.

[Gilbert] Thank you very much, Sir.

[Charleton] And from Berlin the next question, King Husayn, comes from (Yurvan Gama) in Berlin. Good morning to you. What is your question?

[(Gama)] Your Majesty, it is no secret that the United States, which is the only country in the world that can influence Israel, is supporting the Jewish state in every respect, regardless of the fact that the acts of the latter often do not comply with international law and human rights. Now my question: Is it not high time for the so-called moderate Arab states, including Jordan and the leadership of Your Majesty, to reconsider their pro-American policy and to take a firm and effective stand toward the United States? And if...

[Charleton, interrupting] Your Majesty, well, let us deal with that one first, Mr (Gama). I mean is it feasible that moderate Arab leaders like yourself could, as Mr (Gama) invites you to, reconsider your whole posture and stance vis-a-vis the United States?

[Husayn] That really depends on what may happen in the future, but at the same time, I would like to say that this is part of the reason why we have a feeling that maybe under present conditions, which are the result of an erosion since the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967, and not a problem that we are facing at the moment in terms of the American Administration. [sentence as heard] We are suggesting an international conference to deal with this problem. On the other hand, we believe that the change that has occurred in the United States has occurred over a number of years. I refer to this erosion and maybe it is more accurate to say since 1956. We have a strong case, we have a strong cause. And I do not believe that we should run away and keep it to ourselves. We should try to present to people adequately and strongly. And I believe that if this were done, hopefully the American people who are basically a just and decent people — I believe in that very, very firmly — will change their position and contribute their share for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

[Charleton] What comment do you have on the king's answer, Mr (Gama)?

[(Gama)] Thank you very much. A second question is not necessary. And I thank you very much, for I have here a lot of Palestinian friends and so I am very happy to have gotten your answer.

[Charleton] Thank you, Mr (Gama) in Berlin, but I have got one myself to you, Your Majesty, if I may, arising out of that question from Berlin. It is also true, of course, that there is a sense of some betrayal in Washington, on the part of the Americans, that you bear some of the responsibility for the collapse of initiatives from Camp David to the Reagan plan, that, once again, it is you who have backed away from direct negotiations, the possibility of direct negotiations, in seeking peace. Now, how do you respond to that?

[Husayn] Sir, I think that this is totally untrue. We helped formulate 242. We accepted it. Egypt accepted it. We have been seeking its implementation ever since at every opportunity and in every way. We attended the Geneva conference. We accepted the Security Council Resolution 338 and we have almost accepted every initiative. On the other hand, Israel's position has been total rejection of...

[Charleton, interrupting] When the Americans say to you that direct negotiations is the only way out, that you have got to talk to Israel, what is your answer to that?

[Husayn] My answer to that, as probably they as well as the rest of the world know, is that we have tried every possible means of securing the implementation of the formula of total territory for total peace. And I can only say what I told our members of Parliament and the Senate 2 days ago in Amman. If any one wonders that there was anything that could have been done to secure that end, I can assure them that there is no reason to pose that question. We are ready to negotiate even beyond this point at any time, but on what format? We cannot negotiate the principle. I take the issue as it came up in the case of the Falklands, or as some would call it, the Malvinas. We supported the resolution because it was clear, it was the same resolution, the inadmissability of acquisition of territory by war, same concept. We cannot negotiate that, but we can negotiate the implementation, we can negotiate the establishment of comprehensive peace in the area.

[Charleton] If one peeled away all the layers and if placed [as heard] historical overburden that lies upon this question, is it in the end because you do not know what the American position fundamentally at rock bottom is?

[Husayn] And this basically is a problem. We want an idea of what is the position they hold as sponsors of Security Council Resolution 242.

[Charleton] And when somebody like Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's aide, says to you: Yes, Your Majesty, but you want everything served up on a platter before you negotiate, what do you say to him?

[Husayn] I do not say that this is what I want, but I would like to know that I am not dealing with an ally of Israel, and with a mediator, but with a world power. And if that is not possible, then why not have an international conference with all the members of the Security Council, with all the parties to the conflict there to try to move towards establishing peace.

[Charleton] I wonder if Mr (Kanakshen) in Antwerp in Belgium, can move us along in the same direction. Mr (Kanakshen), your question, what is it you want to ask King Husayn this morning?

[(Kanakshen)] Good afternoon, Mike. My question is the following: If by visiting Israel, the late President as-Sadat succeeded in making peace with Israel, then why do not you, King Husayn, accept the same invitation by Israeli leaders and do the same?

[Husayn] Well, it is a question of proving and trying everything possible in the world, and in the area we have tried it all. But we want to move away from dramatics to something really meaningful. And as far as the problem is concerned, with all due respect to all, the problem is really the West Bank. It is really in Gaza; it is really in Jerusalem, much more so than it was in the Sinai. And what we want is a comprehansive peace that must [word indistinct] everyone in the area. I have no right to speak on behalf of the Palestinians. The Palestinians must be there if there is to be a solution to the Palestinian problem. There are other Arab states that are involved as well. So what we want is to avoid the fragmentation of the problem, to try to come to grips with it collectively. I cannot take on the Israelis, the United States, the Arabs, the Palestinians all at the same time. Even some Jordanians would say why bother in the first place. I am trying to get everybody together and I am trying to prepare ourselves to move when an opportunity is there. Unfortunately, it has not existed so far.

[Charleton] In view of what happened to President as-Sadat, Mr (Kanakshen) [word indistinct] does what the king has just said seem to you to be a reasonable answer?

[(Kanakshen)] Right. The thing is everybody has his own position and nobody wants to make headway [words indistinct] and I think since As-Sadat has succeeded in accepting it and making way for it, I think King Husayn would like to do the same.

[Husayn] If I would put it in another way, let me use this opportunity to issue a challenge to Israel: Is Israel prepared to negotiate on the implementation, not on what 242 contains, but on the implementation of 242? If it is, I think you will find that Jordan, the Palestinians, and others in the area would be willing to face this challenge, and would be...

[Charleton] I will make a distinction which eludes some of us, as it nearly eluded me. What is the difference between your challenge to Israel? You say your challenge is: Would they be prepared to vote not upon what it contains, but upon its implementation. What is the significance of that?

[Husayn] This problem is very simple, too. I mean their claim right now is that what is ours is theirs and they would like to negotiate on that. This is where we are at the moment, unfortunately.

[Charleton] Of course, when As-Sadat went to Jerusalem, what was the heart of the matter there? Why did you not sign up at Camp David as he did? Was it because you suspected that Egypt's peace with Israel was at the expense of the Palestinians?

[Husayn] When he went there it was a total surprise to us in the first place, but when he delivered his speech at the Knesset we supported that. We were in touch with him before he went to Camp David. We were never invited to attend Camp David, and then suddenly, the difference was apparent, in terms of the agreement itself, as far as Egyptian territory, it returned to Egypt, as per the formula of 242. In terms of the West Bank and Gaza, the situation was totally different. There had to be negotiations, autonomy, people rather than land, a period of 5 years. And then Israel had the right of veto at the end of that, regarding the final status. This was something we could not accept. I mean the formula was totally different and the Jordanian role we were invited to provide, security within the security to the forces of occupation against the occupied, or what? [sentence as heard] And that is where the difference was. And that is why we have not been able to make any progress.

[Charleton] Mr (Kanakshen), I can move on, if I may, from Belgium to Dubay in the Gulf, Your Majesty, where 'Abdul Khan is waiting to talk to you. Mr Khan, will you go ahead please?

[Khan] Good morning, Your Majesty. I have a question. It is regarding the situation in Lebanon, knowing that it is tense between Syria and Lebanon. In case of a war, how do you foresee the Jordanian position in this conflict?

[Husayn] Lebanon is a very, very deep tragedy. And I do not believe that conditions there are improved all that much, but I hope and pray they will be. Obviously, I have always stood for a united Lebanon, a free Lebanon, where all the problems of the Lebanese could be resolved by the Lebanese themselves, and for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country. And we hope this will be achieved. We do not know how or when, but this is our objective. As for any war in the area, our position is to be able to defend ourselves if we are threatened. Our hope is that another eruption in the area will not occur because it would be very dangerous to predict exactly. It would affect not only all the area but maybe the world as well.

[Charleton] What more do you like to ask, Mr Khan in Dubay?

[Khan] Well, I want to know how far the relationship has been healed between Syria and Jordan, knowing that it is not as sound as it should be?

[Husayn] The relations are... [Husayn changes thought] There are normal contacts. But, unfortunately, the differences between us were over issues and principles and they still remain: for example, over the Iraq-Iran war and the Syrian position there. Indeed, you mentioned Lebanon. Over Lebanon itself, to begin with, we supported their entry there in the first place. We expected it to be a very temporary one, to bring the Lebanese together to create an atmosphere for a dialogue between them and between the Palestinians, something that might have averted all the very tragic consequences, including the Israeli invasion.

[Charleton] How far have you felt that you have had to accommodate to Syria following the American withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Husayn] We have not had to accommodate in any form or way. We want a free Lebanon and an independent Lebanon and a united Lebanon.

[Charleton] It is said, Your Majesty, that you were very much against the American involvement in the Lebanon, their becoming bogged down there and then having to withdraw. Can you confirm that that is so, that your advice was that they should not?

[Husayn] I think the unfortunate problem there was that of the agreement which was really a peace treaty except for names between Israel and Lebanon, which was forced upon the Lebanese, I believe. The primary objective should have been the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon — Israeli, Syrian, and any others — and the unity of the country and to (?link) presence in Lebanon to a solution to the Lebanese problem by the Lebanese themselves. Unfortunately, the added dimension created a situation where you had again an attempt to fragment the Arabs and had to avoid a comprehensive approach toward peace and at the same time you had two superpowers...

[Charleton, interrupting] You are saying that this was an objective of American policy, to fragment the Arab responses?

[Husayn] I do not belive that it was necessarily an objective, but it was, unfortunately, an error [words indistinct].

[Charleton] A consequence?

[Husayn] Well, the consequence [word indistinct] to Lebanon and to all of us.

[Charleton] A question now from north Wales, from Dr (Clive Archol) for King Husayn of Jordan in London this morning. Dr (Archol), what is it you would like to ask?

[(Archol)] Your Majesty, God bless you. First, I would like to say, as an individual, that now that I am over 60 years old, I would support all hereditary monarchs in the world because I believe there is a better continuity of government in those states than with elected presidents, where often an abrupt change of policy follows the change of presidents.

[Charleton] Dr (Archol), I do not think the king will disagree with your poposition, but can we have your question please?

[(Archol)] It is coming immediately. The question is: Would or should the Arab states advise Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to hold an open and public inquiry into the recent [word indistinct] at the Lebanon [as heard] Embassy in London?

[Charleton] What is your response to that, Your Majesty? Here is something which has created, of course, a very profound concern in this country.

[Husayn] We were very, very deeply shocked and very deeply saddened by the events here. Unfortunately, even in the Arab family, we have our problems and we have had to sever diplomatic relations with Libya, just before you did that here in the United Kingdom, for reasons of lack of progress in establishing our relations on a sound basis. Maybe things will change in the future. I hope they will. We will uphold principles and we stand by what is right in terms of our relations and our conduct of these relations throughout the world.

[Charleton] We have got time, I think — thank you, Dr (Archol) —for one more question, from Kuwait this time, from Husayn (Jumayil). Is that correct, Mr (Jumayil)? Are you listening to me in Kuwait? Go ahead, will you?

[(Jumayil)] **Greetings to you** [in Arabic], Your Majesty. I want to thank you for being so kind...

[Charleton, interrupting] Shall we have your question quickly, Mr (Jumayil)? We have not got much longer.

[(Jumayil)] [Words indistinct] and I appreciate it. I would like to ask His Majesty King Husayn whether within the next 5 years there will be a solution or a partial solution to the Palestinian problem so that we can [words indistinct]?

[Charleton] Well, Mr (Jumayil), let me put that to the king, who has had 30 years of trying to anticipate the future. What is your answer to him, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] Mr friend, there is nothing I wish more, and I really hope that the next years will see a progress toward the solution and a solution. We really must have it and we will do all we can toward that and we are committed to that cause.

[Charleton] Any more from you, Mr (Jumayil), in Kuwait?

[(Jumayil)] Thank you very much to you, Your majesty. I wish you a good stay in London.

[Charleton] Your Majesty, perhaps we can end on this note. It has been your ambition to bring about a durable peace between Israel and the Arabs. One cannot help but note the gloom and despondency of your most recent remarks. Now was this just because you had an off day in Amman and perhaps went beyond what you really feel? What is the note on which you would like or with which you would like to leave us?

[Husayn] The problem was not a problem of my relations with the President of the United States, nor was it a problem with the U.S. Administration. It was just a fact that unfortunately the United States — of which we hoped so much in terms of their ability to contribute toward peace — has been handicapped over a number of years through an erosion. I tried to point this out so that an internal debate there might help us or help the United States and help us all.

[Charleton] Your Majesty, my thanks to you for taking part this morning, and our thanks from the BBC to all of you who have rung from all over the world.

Cabinet Discusses Government Policy Statement, Army

Karami Sums Up Work 11 May

NC111209 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1128 GMT 11 May 84

[Telephone dispatch by Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Bikfayya — live]

[Text] The Cabinet session ended a few moments ago. Prime Minister Rashid Karami summed up the work of today's session in the following statement:

[Begin recording] Talks during today's Cabinet meeting focused on the fundamental issues of the government policy statement. It was agreed that the committee entrusted with drafting the policy statement should meet on Monday in B'abda in order to draft this statement in the manner it sees as appropriate for approval.

As to the issue of kidnapped people, the Cabinet approved measures and arrangements which stipulate that the kidnappers should voluntarily release the kidnapped without delay or demands from others, and that the Red Cross should contact the official committee in order to check the places where the kidnapped are held, and where appropriate, to investigate their cases. Thank you. [end recording]

I also learned that the next Cabinet session will be held on Wednesday but the venue has not yet been fixed, that is, whether it will be held at the summer Presidential Palace in Bikfayya or the Presidential Palace in B'abda.

Committee To Draft Statement

NC111506 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1407 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The special ministerial committee set up to formulate the policy statement of the new government is to meet in B'abda on Monday to pursue its task. The committee consists of Prime Minister Karami and Ministers Sham'un, al-Huss, Birri, and Skaf. This was announced today by Prime Minister Karami following another meeting of the Cabinet at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya which extended into the early afternoon.

The prime minister also announced that the Cabinet had adopted a plan under which all kidnapped people would be released without conditions or corresponding demands. The Red Cross and the official committee responsible for this issue were asked to proceed on the basis of the plan, details of which the prime minister declined to divulge. The prime minister also declined to comment on details of the Cabinet deliberations, which have been reported to be centered mainly on the status of the Army, which is seen as the basis for study of security issues [as heard] including the opening of crossings in the capital, and the reopening of the port and the airport.

President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired the meeting attended by Prime Minister Karami and members of the Cabinet, who convened in Bikfayya at 0930 after being welcomed one by one by President al-Jumayyil, who spent the night at the summer Presidential Palace. Prime Minister Karami and Ministers al-Huss, 'Usayran, and Birri arrived by helicopter from West Beirut. Minister Walid Junblatt was the last to arrive driving overland.

Discussions were reported to be serious but calm. The issue of the Army was discussed in depth in view of its bearing on all other issues, especially security. The Cabinet also discussed the question of opening the coastal highway linking Beirut with Sidon and possible measures involved.

In a statement shortly after 2:15 in the afternoon, Prime Minister Karami told waiting newsmen that the Cabinet had concentrated on basic issues and on the general outlines of the policy statement.

Economy Minister Victor Qasir expressed hope that the policy statement would be prepared soon and approved by the Cabinet in preparation for a parliamentary confidence vote. Former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss described the meeting as really good and expressed hope that there would be prompt solutions to outstanding problems. Minister Junblatt said the discussions were held in a good atmosphere and indicated that this was not the time for hoping [sentence as heard]. Former President Sham'un said that there was much work to be done and indicated that he did not know when or where the next Cabinet meeting would be held but predicted it would be on Wednesday. He indicated that the meeting today was good. Defense Minister 'Usayran confirmed that no specific date for the next Cabinet meeting had been set and described today's discussions as quite good.

Army Major Topic

NC120550 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The issue of the Army was the major topic of discussion during yesterday's Cabinet session. Discussion focused on the old and new versions of the Defense Law — Decrees 10 and 102. Demands centered on repealing Decree 10 and amending Decree 102 because of its stipulation that the defense minister should be the chairman of the Military Council.

A minister [not further identified] asked that certain positions at the Command level not be exclusively targeted for a specific community. When the security issue was broached, Minister Nabih Birri said that if no agreement is reached on the Army issue any stability will only be temporary and probably last for only a few days. Birri added in this regard that if the Army issue remains unresolved and weapons remain in the hands of gunmen, then even if the [Beirut] airport is open who will be able to guarantee that not a single shell will be fired at it, forcing its closure once again? Therefore, who will be able to guarantee that there will not be a return to kidnappings if no legitimate deterrent force, agreed upon and uniting all the sides, is established?

Birri encountered opposition when he raised the question of eliminating political sectarianism in the military establishment as the starting point for reforming its structure. There was disagreement because of the view that if there is no comprehensive secularism then the Army must be subject to a formula that would allay the fears of one of the Lebanese sides. In brief, differences of opinion will continue until a new cabinet is formed to discuss this issue anew. [sentence as heard]

Members Differ on Army Issue

NC120730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Observers have expressed surprise at the flareup in the security situation yesterday afternoon that continued throughout the night. They wondered why the flareup occurred following the conclusion of the third Cabinet meeting in Bikfayya yesterday under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil. The Cabinet yesterday affirmed the need to deal with all problems and to consolidate the security situation. Observers linked this eruption in the security situation to the differences of opinion in the Cabinet with regard to the Army issue and the way to settle this issue, and with the opposition's demand to deal with appointments and changes in the Army's command posts prior to discussing concrete reforms in the Army.

Despite the differences of opinion, observers affirmed that the atmosphere at the Cabinet meetings was positive. Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction and minister of water and electricity resources and justice, regarded the meetings as the third stage of the national dialogue. He pointed out that the Cabinet discussions produced no results with regard to the Army issue.

During a meeting of the Amal Movement Command Council members yesterday, Minister Birri reviewed the reasons for not reaching a decision with regard to the Army issue. He was quoted as saying that security is a difficult issue. We are very cognizant of the homeland's interest. He then discussed what he said on the issue of the Army during the Cabinet meeting. He was quoted as saying that he emphasized his eagerness to meet all the vital demands.

Informed sources maintained that the functioning of public services, such as the airport, port, and the reopening of the access routes, is linked to agreement on ways to deal with the Army situation and its new command.

Sources said that the opposition leaders insisted during yesterday's Cabinet meeting on establishing an Army command council or a military council comprised of six officers, with the council chairmanship rotating among them.

Army Decree Suspended

NC121345 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] There are no new significant developments at the security and political levels. Today's activities were confined to consultations pending the drafting of the policy statement by the appropriate committee and pending the next Cabinet session.

We learned today that the committee [drafting the policy statement] will meet Monday in B'abda without Education and Labor Minister Salim al-Huss, who is leaving for the United States.

It was learned that no measures were taken over the road leading to B'abda. Some members of the committee will therefore proceed to the Presidential Palace by military helicopter.

Regarding the policy statement, there is agreement over the guidelines to be included in the statement and over the problems that will be dealt with by members of the ministerial committee.

Well informed sources told us that among the problems eliminated during the recent Cabinet meeting in Bikfayya was the problem of abolishing legislative Decree No 10. The sources said the Cabinet suspended the application of the provisions of Article 4 of Decree 102, thus abolishing legislative Decree No 10, which confines all security powers to the Army commander.

Army To Be Reorganized

NC111459 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] In an interview with REUTER, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran said his first task is to reorganize the Army and, if necessary, to purge the Army, which reflects the political and religious divisions. He added: There are many rumors about bias, but what we need now is true information. He said the Cabinet is capable of stopping the fighting despite old differences among its members. 'Usayran said it was likely that Lebanon will ask the United Nations to work for Israel's withdrawal from the south or to dispatch more UN forces to help the Lebanese Army.

Birri on Ministry of South, Ministries in General

NC121232 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 84

[Statement by Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction and minister of water and electrical resources and justice, at a news conference on 12 May; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] The Ministry of the South does not mean, as some may imagine, that all of the affairs of the south should be confined to one ministry. On the contrary, the formation of this ministry is designed to mobilize and utilize all the ministries and departments as well as all of the domestic and foreign political forces for the sake of the south. It means supporting the steadfastness and resistance of the people there. The Lebanese state must embrace all of this. It should pay the price for the oranges just as it has been paying for the treatment of the wounded. It should create projects that ensure a decent living for the people of the south and western Al-Biqa' on their land.

Just as this ministry is not restricted to a single building or to a single portfolio, it is also not restricted to dealing with a single area. It covers western Al-Biqa' and every part of the land under occupation or under the influence of the occupation, such as the Iqlim al-Kharrub. The south is much too important to be confined to one ministry. It is a ministry that will mobilize all of the ministries for its sake. This is exactly the same objective sought by Imam Musa as-Sadr when he struggled and succeeded in establishing the council for the south.

In my opinion, this government is not permitted to fail. We shall not allow its success to be a shaky one. It should achieve a new charter for all of Lebanon based on the working paper which made its difficult passage from Geneva to Lausanne and to the Damascus summit.

We have accepted representation in the Cabinet on the basis of principles and their fulfillment and not for the love of ministerial posts. The headings of the charter should be: the identity of Lebanon; the liberation of the south; and reforms falling under the heading of the elimination of political sectarianism. I shall begin to eliminate political sectarianism in my ministries.

Sham'un: Birri Statments Unreasonable

NC121626 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Commenting on Nabih Birri's news conference, former President Camille Sham'un tonight said: All that Birri stated was unreasonable and stemmed from the psychological effects of his assuming a ministerial post. Sham'un said Nabih Birri must respect the law and must not ask certain citizens not to settle their electricity bill if he really is a minister of justice.

The most important point in Birri's statement today is his intention to apply the principle of abolishing political sectarianism in his ministries. He also said the payment of electricity bills in Beirut's southern suburb must stop. He likewise asked the public prosecutor to immediately refer all the detainees to the judicial authorities to consider their cases. Birri also said the Ministry of State for South Lebanon and Reconstruction Affairs is not restricted to the south but includes the western Al-Biqa' and every piece of land under Israeli occupation or under Israeli influence, such as Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Resistance Front Criticizes Birri

NC131200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Leaflets were distributed in the southern suburb last night signed by the National Resistance Front, accusing Minister Nabih Birri of having destroyed the southern suburb for the sake of a ministerial post. The *AL-QARAR* publication, which is published by [Shi'ite religious leader] Shaykh Shams ad-Din, has attacked the government and Minister Nabih Birri personally. It says that the creation of a ministry in charge of the south was previously offered to Imam Musa as-Sadr and the Amal Movement in 1975, but Imam as-Sadr turned down the offer.

Iddih Criticizes Cabinet, Defends Syrian Presence

NC121200 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] In an interview with the weekly *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI* magazine, Raymond Iddih, the leader of the National Bloc Party says that the present government has accomplished nothing. He adds: If I were in Prime Minister Rashid Karami's position, I would not have appointed Israel's agents as ministers, but would have brought them to justice in accordance with the law that was ratified and published on 23 June 1955. They [the agents] cannot accept co-existence among all of the Lebanese communities because it would eliminate their source of income and return them to their true size. They will not accept this.

Iddih adds: The Phalangists were the first to direct fire on the Army and break its back with the support of the Israeli enemy. The National Bloc Party leader points out that the Christians of Lebanon and the Middle East are in danger because of Israel which wants to partition Lebanon. It is inciting the Muslims against the Christians and vice versa in order to implement its plots. He calls for abolishing the armed militia and for not integrating them into the Army.

Iddih supports administrative decentralization and rejects the idea of cantons or federalism. He says: Syria entered Lebanon at the request of the president of the Republic. We agreed to Syria's entry, but Israel is an enemy. Therefore, we must differentiate between the Syrian and Israeli presence in Lebanon. He adds: Israel is an occupying force and we must first liberate the homeland as all other demands are secondary.

Iddih stresses that the prerogatives of the president of the Republic should not be tampered with and that the president must remain a Maronite. He says that this arrangement was agreed upon by Patriarch Huwayk and the Muslims in 1943.

Committee Drafting Statement To Meet at Court

NC131936 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The problem of the venue for the meeting of the ministerial committee charged with formulating the government's policy statement has been solved. The committee will meet in the Military Court tomorrow and at the set time, if security conditions allow this. This was affirmed by [former] President Camille Sham'un in a statement to our correspondent. Sham'un said he received a telephone call from Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who informed him that Nabih Birri refuses to attend the committee meeting if it is held in B'abda Palace. Sham'un added: As for me, I have no objection to attending the meeting anywhere. Earlier, our correspondent said Sham'un refused to attend the meeting if it were to be held at As-Sanawbar Palace, because it is located on territory under the jurisdiction of French troops.

Foreign Ministry Implements Severance of Relations

NC111145 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today implemented the Cabinet's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador in response to the transfer of their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry summoned Riyad 'Abd al-Baqi, the charge d'affaires of the Costa Rican Embassy in Beirut, to convey to him the Cabinet's decision to break off Lebanon's relations with his country. With regard to El Salvador, the Foreign Ministry cabled Lebanese Ambassador in Mexico Fu'ad 'Awn, who is also accredited to the Government of El Salvador, and informed him of the Cabinet's decision to break off diplomatic relations with the Government of El Salvador.

Karami Resumes Contacts; Abu Fadil Leaves for Syria

NC121017 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami this morning resumed his contacts and consultations at the Government House. He met with the Czechoslovak and French ambassadors and held a meeting with Salim al-Huss, minister of labor, national education and fine arts, who has been commissioned to prepare the government policy statement. Meanwhile, Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has departed for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials there.

Karami Interviewed on Government Program

GF121642 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 12 May 84 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami by *AL-ADWA'* Correspondent As'ad ad-Dandishi in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ad-Dandishi] What is the basic program of your government at this stage?

[Karami] Our program is to consolidate security, make political reforms, and to liberate southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa' from the occupying Israeli enemy. These are basic issues and the government has to tackle them. The security, the liberation of the south, and the internal reforms are issues of priority. There is nothing that can prevent us from tackling all these issues at a time.

[Ad-Dandishi] The long war harmed the Lebanese and destroyed their properties. Will the new government, under your leadership, put an end to this tragedy which cause armed and psychophysical barriers?

[Karami] I am concentrating on cooperation in this regard. With cooperation among the people we hope that God will guide us toward prosperity and toward the unity of our words and ranks so that we can prove to the world the honesty and ability of our people and correct our picture which was distorted by war. The savage practices, the barbaric styles, the kidnapping, and the haphazard shooting of the innocent people do not come from our values but they were imposed on us. We have to prove to the world our original heritage and glorious history by removing the restrictions, lifting the barriers, and by opening the cross roads. Moreover, we have to liberate the people from their sickness so that the world can see our real purity.

[Ad-Dandishi] Your Excellency, the prime minister, how can this be achieved while the intrinsic force of the state, the Lebanese Army has undergone a critical situation after the battles which took place in the mount and in Beirut? What will your government do in order to restore a unified Lebanese Army?

[Karami] Here, I can openly say that when we call on the Army to go to its barracks, we do not want to cancel its role, but we want to correct it, purify, and consolidate it so that it can be capable of playing its real role in protecting the homeland and the citizen. This is what we want and this is what we will endeavor to achieve so that everybody in Lebanon can trust the army.

[Ad-Dandishi] Syria expressed a real wish to cooperate with the Lebanese in order to put an end to the crisis you are witnessing and the Lebanese expressed the same wish. Will Israel, in your view allow such a rapproachement after the cancellation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed on 17 May?

[Karami] We speak about Israel and we are well aware of its ambitions in our country and its designs which led to much of what we are suffering from. We believe in national Lebanese unity and self-reliance in doing what we have to do to achieve the exit of the occupying enemy from our lands and the restoration of our sovereignty and rights. This forces us to play our national role in supporting all serious attempts for liberation. We are proud of the bold Lebanese national resistance in the south and in Al-Biqa'. We also have to use the political and diplomatic means and when there is a necessity we have to refer to the UN Security Council in particular and to the international organizations in general and to the friendly and fraternal countries and to the international public opinion in order to explain our complaints, the results of the enemy activities, and the enemy's attempts to hatch intrigues in our country. We expect that, in such a case, the Israelis will withdraw at the earliest possible time.

Sham'un Advocates Federal System

NC140815 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] In an inteview with *AL-HAWADITH* magazine, Camille Sham'un stressed the need for finding a new political system in Lebanon, expressing the conviction that a federation could serve as the new political system. Sham'un added that this system requires the various factions to recognize, respect, and trust each other. Both the Christians and Muslims, according to Sham'un, hold the view that they are different, but, he added, this should in no way be used to nurture secrtarian sedition. This difference should rather be respected.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Assumes Ministerial Post

NC120830 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has assumed his post as minister of posts and communications from his predecessor Minister George Afram.

Reportage on Security Situation Over Weekend

Committee Agrees on Cease-Fire

NC111729 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The four-man security committee has been meeting at its racecourse headquarters to discuss the continual breaches of the cease-fire in the capital, the southern suburbs, and the mountain. It agreed on a new cease-fire after the various armed bands stepped up their aggressions against the Lebanese Army positions and the residential areas in Beirut, the southern suburbs, and the mountain.

On the demarcation lines in the capital, automatic and rocket fire was renewed along the fronts of Primo, French medical faculty, De Chayla Stadium, and on some fronts in the commercial center.

This afternoon, sniper fire and sporadic explosions were heard on the front of the courts, the Martyr Square, and city center. In the southern suburbs, sniper fire was resumed this afternoon, particularly on At-Tayyunah, where a member of the public has been wounded. Sniping extended to the fronts of Sannin, Al-Barid, Al-Matahin, and as far as Mar Mikha'il, Galerie Sim'an, the Old Sidon Road, and St. Therese. Fire was also reported on Bsaba, Kafr Shima, and Sibnay from Al-Ma'rufiayah and Ash-Shuwayfat. Early this evening, fire from heavy machine guns was directed on Al-Hadath. In the mountain, positions of the Lebanese Army, the observers, and the disengagement forces have been the target all day long of Junblatti sniper fire and some rockets.

Warning to Phalangist Militias

NC111405 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has given an ultimatum to the Phalangist militias to reopen the Al-Jiyah-Sidon road within 24 hours from noon today. A spokesman for the front told the Voice of Arab Lebanon that this is the final warning to the Phalangist militias to reopen the road or else the National Resistance Front will strike the militias everywhere they exist in this area.

The spokesman said that the front was responsible for an operation carried out at 0230 this morning against some militiamen on the An-Nabi Yunis crossroad in Al-Jiyah. He said that the operation resulted in the destruction of a jeep equipped with a .50-caliber machine gun and the death of two members of the group and the wounding of others. The spokesman said that this operation is a warning to the militias that if they do not reopen the road within the prescribed period, the earth will be shaken under the feet of the gunmen.

Socialists Asked To Withdraw

NC111934 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Commenting on the sniper fire and shelling to which some Christian villages in the Al-Kharrub region were subjected today, the Free Christian grouping expressed surprise that the armed Junblatti strangers [ghuraba'] are still present in the upper Al-Kharrub area despite the agreement reached between the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and the area's inhabitants, according to which the Lebanese forces, other than the sons of the region, have withdrawn. The free Christian grouping called on the PSP to withdraw its gunmen from the area and not to interfere in the peaceful villages in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.

Karami, Al-Huss, Birri Meet

NC121818 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met tonight with Ministers Salim al-Huss and Nabih Birri. They discussed the deteriorating security situation and political developments in light of the results of the past two Cabinet meetings. The discussions also dealt with the draft text of the government's policy statement, which will be discussed at the ministerial committee's meeting on Monday.

Al-Huss Condemns 12 May Shelling

NC122125 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Salim al-Huss, minister of labor, national education, and fine arts, tonight commented on the indiscriminate shelling by saying: We can describe this indiscriminate shelling which poured down on our heads as a crazy action. Since it was the work of forces claiming legitimacy, how else can we describe it? Al-Huss added: The one responsible for this horrible massacre is a criminal in the full sense of the word and should be prosecuted.

Junblatt, Birri Urge Self-Restraint

NC130720 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Despite the escalation of the security situation, Walid Junblatt has given orders to the fighters to exercise self-restraint. The order was conveyed to the Progressive Socialist Party representative on the Security Arrangements Committee. Nabih Birri has followed suit and has instructed Amal Movement representative Dr Ayyub Humayyid to this effect.

In another development, a military source from the Security Arrangements Committee said that yesterday's events are part of a theatrical act which was well planned by the factional Army and the Phalangist gangs. The source added that the Lebanese Forces and the factional Army are responsible for the escalation.

Karami Optimistic About Solution

NC130810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The prime minister sees no alternative but to work toward calming the situation and to face it with wisdom, strong nerves, and determination in order to end the crisis which has caused heavy losses and casualties. Sources close to Prime Minister Rashid Karami said last night that the prime minister is reassured about the possibility of a settlement in view of the fact that all the parties to the conflict are clearly represented in the Cabinet. Prime Minister Karami believes that solutions are within reach, although achieving solutions is difficult and requires time in view of the accummulation of problems over 9 years of war.

These sources said the most important problem to be solved is the problem of the Army's structure and the security policy. A solution of this important problem will facilitate solving other problems. Therefore, the prime minister thinks that efforts must be exerted with patience, wisdom, and persistence to solve the basic problem, which is that of the Army.

Sham'un, P. al-Jumayyil Comment

NC131012 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Camille Sham'un today said the security situation erupted yesterday when artillery shelling was directed at East Beirut from West Beirut. He said the reports compiled by the Lebanese and French observers prove the authenticity of his statement. Sham'un said there are reckless terrorist gunmen in West Beirut, adding that the opposition has ill-intentions regarding the Army issue. For his part, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil asserted that the issue of security should have priority over all other topics on the Cabinet's agenda, noting that there are other issues equally as important as the issue of the Army but that the security issue should remain at the top of the list. On the security level, the Suq al-Gharb area is now being subjected to machine gun fire from 'Aytat. Guarded calm, meanwhile, prevails in the capital and the southern suburb. This calm, however, is occasionally disrupted by volleys of gunfire and RPGs.

Sham'un Comments Further

NC131238 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Minister Camille Sham'un said today that the reason for the eruption in the security situation last night was the presence of reckless and irresponsible elements in West Beirut whose sole aim is destruction. Among them are Iranians, Libyans, Palestinians, and communists who are affected by the smallest thing and who translate their feelings into barbaric shells they fire randomly to kill innocent people. Hence, the situation has become worrisome. We must act to stop the firing. Sham'un pointed out that the shelling originated yesterday from West Beirut toward the eastern sector. Whoever does not believe this can authenticate it from the reports of the observers who are there for that purpose.

Answering a question on whether the issue of the Army in the government policy statement has any connection with this escalation, Sham'un told Radio Free Lebanon: Nowadays we do not know the reason for every escalation because there are many reasons. But what is important in this is that no matter how many reasons there are, it is evident that the opposition has bad intentions. Anyhow, Sham'un added, there is no major difference on the issue of the Army. What took place during the recent Cabinet sessions was a discussion that does not justify such an escalation, if there is a link between the two issues.

The leader of the Lebanese Front added: It is premature to talk about the Army issue before inserting it into the government policy statement. What is certain is that the Army has a principal role to play in the country's security. It should be in its barracks when so requested, and there is no need for it to be outside the barracks. It should leave the barracks when duty calls. At any rate, the Army must always be ready to perform its duties of preserving security and protecting the freedom and lives of the Lebanese people.

Situation Tense in Beirut

NC140951 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The security situation became tense at 0900 today. Shells fell in Furn ash-Shubbak, Al-'Adliyah, and Al-Ashrafiyah [in East Beirut], injuring several people. Shells also fell in Ra's an-Nab' and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq [in West Beirut]. Consequently, the quadripartite Security Committee met at its headquarters and began intensified contacts to put a halt to the deterioration in the security situation. A source in the Amal Movement said the movement had not issued any order for the closure of schools in West Beirut but that the schools were concerned about the students' safety, especially after families fearful of indiscriminate shelling after one school in East Beirut was hit went to the schools to pick up their children. These fears emanate from those in charge of the media, which have a purpose and interest in closing schools in both parts of the capital and in preventing political meetings that could lead to an improvement in the security situation.

Amal Source Discusses Alert

NC140940 Beirut Vocie of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Responding to a question on why the Amal gunmen have been placed on alert, a responsible source in the Amal Movement said that Palestinian gunmen from the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine are pounding certain areas in East Beirut without the knowledge of the Amal command. The source added: We have placed our gunmen on alert to stop the shelling operation.

Reportage on Israeli Activities in South

Open Fire on Sidon Streets

NC111110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] At approximately 1000 today, the Israeli forces opened fire on Sidon's main streets and on Riyad as-Sulh and Al-Awqaf streets. Merkava tanks passed through Riyad as-Sulh Street and stopped on Al-Awqaf Street. They opened fire indiscriminately, causing alarm and fear among the citizens and merchants, who were forced to close their stores.

Surround An-Numayriyah

NC111618 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Israeli enemy forces surrounded An-Numayriyah township [in the south] this morning with tanks and vehicles. They raided the mosque there and led some inhabitants to their headquarters in Mayfadun for interrogation and questioning.

Set Up Fortifications

NC120716 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Inhabitants of southern Lebanon and Al-Biqa' are in a state of extreme tension and anxiety as a result of increasing military preparations by the Israeli occupation forces.

The occupation forces in western Al-Biqa' continue to dig trenches and set up fortifications on the frontlines. Reports say that the area is the scene of active tank movements in the area extending from the As-Sultan Ya'qub hills to Dahr al-Marj. The military movements are centered in two areas, the first is Jabal al-Baruk-Dahr al-Baydar-Qub Ilyas and the second is the Mount Hermon hills-Kar Quq ridges-Dayr al-'Asha'ir area in the eastern sector.

During the night the occupation forces carried out large-scale maneuvers with live ammunition in which tanks took part and flares were used. The maneuvers lasted until the early hours of this morning. Israeli planes, meanwhile, continued reconnaissance sorties in squadrons flying at low altitude.

The occupation forces closed one of their posts at the southern entrance to the township of Jubb Jannin. They moved 25 tanks from there to the area of 'Ammun and handed the post over to their agents, Lahhad's militia. During the past 24 hours, Moshe Levi, the enemy chief of staff, inspected the confrontation lines between the occupation forces and the Syrian forces in western Al-Biqa', and met with a number of officers.

Alarm Citizens in Sidon

NC120918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent in the south reported that at 0700 today the Israeli occupation forces opened random fire in the Hayy as-Sabbagh area of Sidon, causing fear and alarm among the citizens. The correspondent said that the enemy forces subsequently closed the streets and halted traffic in the area for 30 minutes. They searched vehicles and checked the identities of the citizens. He said that a dense cloud of smoke was seen in the area, and it was later learned that it was caused by a smoke bomb.

VOAL on Sidon Attack

NC131342 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] At 1200 today, Lebanese resistance fighters attacked an enemy convoy composed of several trucks, two jeeps, and an armored personnel carrier with rockets and machine guns near Sidon's port. One truck was destroyed and an unknown number of its personnel killed. Immediately afterward, the occupation forces opened fire in random to terrorize the populace. They also conducted a large-scale search operation using additional troops called to the scene of the incident. Zionist military helicopters were seen overflying Sidon while other helicopters were evacating the casualties.

Poison Gas Use Charged

NC131737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces today lifted their siege of Ma'rakah in Tyre district and vacated the roadblocks and observation posts which they had set up at the western and eastern entrances to the town. A confrontation had taken place between the Israeli forces and the inhabitants in which three citizens were wounded. There were 10 other casualties from poison gas which the enemy forces used. Delegations from neighboring villages today visited the town to examine the situation.

The inhabitants of the town issued a statement in which they appealed to international, humanitarian, and political organizations to intervene and investigate the occupation forces' use of internationally banned poison gas.

The statement said the Isreali forces had deceived UNIFIL, in whose area of operations the town is located. The UN command had obtained assurances from the occupation forces that they would only pass through the town. The enemy forces entered the town however, took up positions, and started opening fire and using poison gas and smoke bombs against women, children, and defenseless inhabitants. The statement added that the widescale operation against a defenseless town shows the dimensions of the Israeli decision to humiliate an entire people, who refuse to kneel before anyone but god.

The statement denied reports that a military operation had taken place before the occupation forces stormed the town. The statement said these reports were mere lies used by the Israeli forces as a pretext for entering the town.

Reinforcements in Al-Biqa'

NC140621 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] A state of caution and anticipation prevails on the Al-Biqa' front following the Israeli reinforcements in areas opposite the Syrian forces. Huge excavators have been spotted digging trenches and building fortifications around the Israeli positions.

Resistance Men Attack Israeli Patrols in South

NC130725 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Reports we received from the south this morning indicate that the Lebanese national resistance men carried out a new operation at dawn today against the Zionist enemy forces in the Jazzin area. These reports say that an explosive charge went off at 0350 today as a Zionist enemy patrol was passing along the Dahr ar-Ramlah-Jazzain road. The explosion resulted in the destruction of an enemy vehicle. All of its passangers were killed and wounded.

An Israeli mechanized patrol immediately arrived at the scence and encircled the area. The patrol then began a large-scale search operation for heroic fighters.

We received a report a short while ago that the Lebanese national resistance men attacked an enemy patrol at 0515 today on the 'Anqub-Sarba road, near the Furn al-'Arab area. The 5-minute attack, in which rockets and machine guns were used, resulted in the destruction of an enemy jeep and in the killing or wounding of many personnel.

Junblatt Comments on Chance for Peace

NC130938 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] In an interview with *MONDAY MORNING* magazine, to be published tomorrow, Minister Walid Junblatt said the Lebanese have a chance for a truce that may last from 1 to 6 months, and they must take this chance or else Lebanon will be finished. Minister Junblatt added: Until we reach agreement with President al-Jumayyil to ease the tension and restore order in Lebanon, the various parties will have to keep their weapons. He called on the armed organizations to end the fighting and to conclude an agreement. He said: the victory of one party over the other is impossible. He expressed the view that the national unity government takes it possible for the parties to engage in a dialogue, adding that no one will put down his arms if we do not reach a solution to the Army problem.

Further on Junblatt Interview

NC130850 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] In a statement to *MONDAY MORNING*, Minister Walid Junblatt said Lebanon will inevitably be destroyed if we do not all endeavor to salvage it. He called on all Lebanese fighters to agree to avert the deterioration in the security situation. He added that such an agreement could be reached through the new government although the Lebanese forces are not adequatly represented in it. Continuing, Junblatt said: There can be neither victor nor vanquished in Lebanon. Our foes tried to score a victory but failed and, likewise, we tried in 1976, but also failed. Regarding West Beirut, Junblatt said the situation there is like a jungle. Weapons are pouring in from all directions and the gunmen are roaming the streets and quarters.

AFP on Junblatt Interview

NC130910 Paris AFP In English 0833 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Beirut, May 13 (AFP) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt has appealed to rival Lebanese communities to "fix a deal" urgently, without which, he says, "Lebanon is over".

Mr. Junblatt, Minister of tourism, transport and public works, was quoted in today's edition of the weekly magazine *MONDAY MORNING* as saying that Lebanon's factions had an opportunity to "achieve a kind of truce."

He urged community leaders to seize the opportunity, otherwise the country was doomed.

Mr. Junblatt, who is also head of the Progressive Socialist Party, said inter-community understanding could be attained via the government although he said the Lebanese forces Christian coaltition was inadequately represented.

He said his own participation in the government in no way meant that he and his followers recognised "the so-called leaglity of (president) Amin al-Jumayyil or what he represents".

Mr. Junblatt said: "This government could be start of a process of achieving a deal with Amin al-Jumayyil and the other side. But until then, all parties are entitled to keep their arms."

He said fundamental problems at present were the role of the traditionally Maronite-led Lebanese Army and the reopening of Beirut airport, closed since February.

The Druze leader described West Beirut, a predominantly Moslem area, as a "jungle".

"We are back to square one," he said. "A lot of arms are coming into west Beirut. A lot of groups are appearing."

"A lot of money is being spent by some of our old allies, meaning the Palestinians — They are back indirectly," Mr. Junblatt said.

Mr. Junblatt also denied he had had "personal relations" with the Israelis, but had authorised contact when the Israelis were occupying Druze mountains southeast of Beirut. "I told some of my people to deal with the Druze of Israel. That's because they have constituted a kind of a Druze follow-up committee and they occupy quite an important position in Israel. It's an interesting lobby."

Junblatt Visits Damascus, Meets Khaddam

JN131912 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Minister of transport, communications, and tourism, visited Damascus this afternoon where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam after which he left Damascus for Al-Mukhtarah. The reason for this visit is not known yet but it probably has something to do with the deterioration of the security situation in Beirut and its suburbs.

Soviet Embassy in Beirut Tightens Security

NC111058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Beirut has taken stringent security measures around the building in the wake of threats that some embassy staffers have recently received.

Birri Orders Release of Kidnapped

NC121109 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] At his news conference today, Nabih Birri, in his capacity as minister of justice, has ordered the release of all those kidnapped. He also ordered that all those detained by the military authorities be immediately referred to the judicial bodies.

VOL Reports Syrians Open Fire in North

NC121150 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Reports from the north [Lebanon] say that fire was opened last night from Syrian forces positions in the Al-Madfun area in the direction of the sea. The reports add that large-caliber weapons were used and that this was followed by the firing of flares over the area.

Iranians Begin Departure at Request of Syria

NC121248 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon from the Al-Biqa', groups of Iranian Revolutionary guards in the Ba'labakk-Al-Hirmil area have started to return to Iran at the request of Syria. The last group will leave the area next week with the exception of a number of clergymen who are spreading the Khomeynite message.

The Syrian side was very interested in preventing the transference of the Revolutionary Guards' weapons to the Hezbollah Party. In this regard the Syrians suggested that the Iranians hand over their weapons to them.

Syrian forces have started to take up positions in the Brital-At-Tayyibah area where the Hezbollah Headquarters is located. They also gave notice that the Education Institute belonging to the Lebanese Army should be evacuated before the end of this month.

Reports also say that the Syrians have carried out large-scale replacements in the intelligence ranks through the introduction of new, additional teams to the Ba'labakk-Al-Hirmil area.

Syrians Confiscate Hezbollah Weapons in Al-Biqa'

NC121401 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say that the Syrian forces confiscated more than 250 weapons when they surrounded Al-Hirmil and raided the posts and houses of Iranian Hezbollah Party gunmen.

Ceausescu Concludes Visit; Joint Statement Issued

Talks Reveal Close Views

JN111150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu resumed the talks they began yesterday. Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Dr Rifa't al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Deputy Prime Ministers Walid Hamdun and 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'; Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh; Assistant Foreign Minister 'Isam an-Na'ib; and Syrian Ambassador in Bucharest Hayssam Barakat attended the meeting on the Syrian side. Attending the meeting on the Romanian side were Mrs Elena Ceausescu, First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea, Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae, Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei, Romanian President's adviser Constantin Mitea, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with matters related to cooperation between the countries, and to relations in various spheres. Both sides completed the review and assessment of the situation in the region in light of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught, the developments in the world, and the situation in Europe resulting from the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The talks helped each side to acquaint the other with its stands and opinions on the subjects discussed in the talks. The two sides held close views on certain subjects and similar views on other subjects. The Syrian and Romanian sides expressed a desire to bolster cooperation for the interests of both countries and people.

More on Al-Asad-Ceausescu Talks

JN111639 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Damascus — At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu resumed the talks they began yesterday. President al-Asad stressed Syria's concern for peace in the region based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and on the Palestinian Arab people regaining their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state according to UN resolutions accepted by the international community. The president repeated Syria's call for convening an international conference, under UN auspices, to achieve peace in the region. The conference would be attended by the largest number of states agreed upon. The president said: We want peace from a position of equality, and we will not strive for peace from a position of weakness.

Reviewing Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy, the president said: Israeli officials are not bearers of peace. Their invasion of Lebanon with U.S. support has proved that they are not qualified to achieve peace. Their aim is to expand and to impose hegemony on the region. The president said that the peace process is obstructed by the increased Israeli arsenal with U.S. support. He said: We are preparing ourselves to face a possible aggression at any time. Our first task is to be able to defend ourselves; everything else is secondary. Talking about Lebanon, the president said: The greatest role in abrogating the 17 May agreement was played by the brave Lebanese people, who adhered to their nationalism and Arabism and who made great sacrifices. The president added: We want Lebanon to be stable, strong, and unified in its territory and people. We are ready to sacrifice for the unity of its territory and continued independence, just as we have sacrificed in the past.

President Ceausescu criticized Israel's policy. He said: The Israeli position in the past few years has greatly complicated the situation. Israel's invasion of Lebanon has created new obstacles for achieving peace in the region. He supported calls for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He described the abrogation of the 17 May agreement as a political failure for U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration.

The Romanian president said that the development of events has emphasized the need for an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by the parties concerned as well as by other states that might play a positive role in its activities. President Ceausescu supported Syria's right to take all measures and actions necessary to defend itself.

Ministers Review Cooperation

JN111306 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] At 0930 today, a meeting was held under 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Gheorghe Oprea, Romanian first deputy prime minister. Attending the meeting on the Syrian side were Hamid Mir'i, assistant minister of state for planning affairs, and a number of technicians; on the Romanian side were Second Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae, the commercial adviser at the Romanian Embassy in Damascus, and a number of Romanian technicians.

During the meeting, both sides resumed the review of cooperation between both friendly countries and the implementation stages of the protocols and agreements signed by them, particularly in the fields of oil, land reclamation, cement, and others. They also discussed the steps required to speed up the stages of implementation and overcome the difficulties and obstacles. They also reviewed the horizons of promoting these relations in the future in a manner that serves the two countries' interests and bolsters their joint cooperation.

Ceausescu, Delegation Depart

JN111945 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania; his wife; and the delegation accompanying them left Damascus at 1700 this evening after a 2-day friendly visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife. President Hafiz al-Asad led those seeing President Ceausescu off at Damascus International Airport.

When the presidential motorcade arrived at the airport, President Ceausescu shook hands with Ba'th Party Regional and National Command members, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Damascus. The two presidents then moved to the dias of honor. The national anthems of Romania and Syria were played while a 21-gun salute was fired. The two presidents reviewed the guard of honor. Huge crowds at the airport hailed the two presidents and Syrian- Romanian friendship.

At the aircraft steps, President Ceausescu was seen off by Assistant Secretary General of the Ba'th Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar; Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Dr Rif'at al-Asad, and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'; and Syria's ambassador in Bucharest. After the official send-off ceremony ended, President Hafiz al-Asad greeted President Nicolae Ceausescu, who embarked on the aircraft and departed from the airport. His aircraft was accompanied by four Syrian Air Force planes until it departed Syrian airspace.

Ceausescu Cables Al-Asad

JN111957 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 84

[Cable from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to President Hafiz al-Asad sent on 11 May from the plane en route to Bucharest]

[Text] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic:

At the end of our short, friendly visit to Syria, I would like to express to you, my dear friend President Hafiz al-Asad, to your honorable wife, and to the friendly Syrian Arab people, on behalf of my wife and on my own behalf, our warmest thanks for the warm reception and generosity we enjoyed in your country. I am confident that this visit, our meetings, the talks we held, and the agreements we have reached will strengthen the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in the interests of our two peoples and countries, and in the interests of peace and security throughout the world. On this occasion. I once again send our sincere greetings and wishes of personal good health, happiness, progress, prosperity, and peace for the friendly Syrian people.

[Signed] Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania

Joint Statement

JN120725 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 May 84

["Text" of joint statement on Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's 10-11 visit to Syria]

[Text] At the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his wife, President Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and his wife paid a cordial visit to Syria 10-11 May 1984. During this visit, President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Martyrs Cemetery.

In their talks, which were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, mutual respect, and understanding, the two presidents acquainted each other with the two countries' current concerns in the fields of economic and social development. They also studied the current situation of Syrian-Romanian relations and prospects for expanding them. They held a broad exchange of views on international issues of mutual concern, especially the Middle East issue.

The talks were attended on the Romanian side by Elena Ceausescu, first deputy prime minister; Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister; Ion Nicolae, deputy prime minister; Stefan Andrei, minister of foreign affairs; Constantin Mitea, adviser to the Romanian president; Grigore Comartin, Romanian ambassador in Damascus; Lieutenant General Iulian Vlad, state secretary in the Ministry of Interior; Iustin Rogoz, deputy minister of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry; Constantin Manea, director of the Presidential Office; Marcel Dinu, a Foreign Ministry director; and Ion (Dascali), director in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation. They were attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the republic; Dr Rif'at al-Asad, vice president of the republic; Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the republic; Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Faruq ash-Shar', foreign minister; Yasin Rajjuh, information minister; 'Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; and Hayssam Barakat, Syrian ambassador to Romania.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the multifaceted development of the relations of strong friendship and fruitful cooperation between Syria and Romania as being consistent with the interests of both countries and peoples as well as with the cause of international peace and cooperation. In this respect, the two sides referred to the good results that have been achieved through implementing the agreements concluded during the various summit meetings held in Damascus and Bucharest and through the texts of the two countries' other cooperation agreements, which are in complete harmony with the principles and objectives provided for in the Syrian-Romanian joint statement signed in Bucharest on 7 February 1981 and in Damascus on 26 May 1982. The Syrian and Romanian presidents affirmed that the strong basis for developing the continuous cooperation between their two countries occurs through the principle of firmly adhering to national independence and sovereignty, to full equal rights, to mutual benefit, and to noninterference in internal affairs.

During the talks, the two sides affirmed the great importance of the meetings held by the leaders of the two parties and the presidents of the two countries, as well as the past and present basic role of summit agreements, which always give strong impetus to Syrian-Romanian cooperation in all fields of mutual concern. The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to move forward in order to expand and diversify the cordial relations between the two countries and to ensure the continuity, firmness, and efficacy of their mutual relations in the political as well as economic, cultural, and scientific fields.

The two presidents evaluated highly the development of relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Romanian Communist Party and between the various mass and popular organizations. They also stressed the importance of these relations with regard to the entire Syrian-Romanian relations of cooperation. They agreed on the need to further expand these relations through direct contacts and intensive exchange of expertise in the field of economic and social construction.

During their talks, the two sides devoted special attention to their bilateral economic relations. It was pointed out that the two countries should continue their cooperation in all fields of common benefit, coordinate their activities, and create new means and possibilities for expanding economic cooperation so that it may encompass new and various fields.

In the field of increasing trade exchanges, a protocol was reached on developing economic cooperation and increasing trade exchanges between the two countries.

The two presidents exchanged views on the current international issues and on the course of events in the contemporary world. They noted that the development of international relations proves their evaluations which were included in the joint official declaration signed in Bucharest on 17 September 1974, in the joint statement signed in Damascus on 16 August 1979, in the joint Syrian-Romanian declaration signed in Bucharest on 17 February 1981, and in other Syrian-Romanian joint documents, particularly concerning the tension in the current international situation and the need to resort to the policy of peace, detente, progress, independence, and cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the world.

The two sides devoted special attention to the serious, tense Middle East situation, which results from Israel's continuous occupation of Arab territories, its contempt for the UN resolutions, and its denial of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. As they reviewed the current developments in the region, the Syrian and Romanian sides affirmed that it is impossible to tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict in isolation from the Palestinian problem, which is the crux of the conflict, or by shunning the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They are of the view that it is impossible to establish a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace except on the basis of Israel's complete, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and on realizing the Palestinian Arab people's national, inalienable rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state in accordance with the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian problem. In this regard, the two presidents reaffirmed their determination to realize a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the Middle East. The two presidents called for enhancing efforts on the international level for a Middle East settlement and supported the convening of an international conference to this end under the UN auspices and with effective UN participation to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO.

As they reviewed the Lebanese situation, the two sides condemned the continued Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territory and Israel's interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and its attempts to divide Lebanon. The two presidents stressed the need to work for realizing immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, and for implementing the Security Council resolutions in this regard. They expressed their total support for the current efforts to realize national reconciliation among all the political and social forces and to settle their differences through political means and negotiations, and by a democratic method with the aim of protecting Lebanese territory.

The two presidents noted with concern that the situation in Europe has recently deteriorated to a great extent. They are of the view that after the United States began deploying medium-range missiles in some Western European states — something that forced the USSR to take countermeasures — the nuclear arms race entered a new, serious phase that contributed to further exacerbation in world tension and increased the threat of a nuclear world war. Based on their conviction that this issue goes beyond the borders of the European Continent and could have a detrimental effect on the peace and security of the Middle East region, the Mediterranean Sea, and the entire world, the two presidents strongly support stoping the deployment of the U.S. missiles in Europe and the forced USSR countermeasures which are being implemented, so that the U.S. and Soviet sides will be able to resume the U.S.-USSR talks in Geneva with the aim of reaching an agreement to remove from Europe the medium-range missiles and all the nuclear weapons in general.

The two presidents affirmed the importance of supporting peace, developing cooperation and good neighborly relations in the Balkan region, and making this region free of nuclear weapons and foreign military bases. In this context, the two presidents expressed their support for establishing areas that are free of nuclear weapons in the other parts of Europe and the world, including the Middle East. The two president stressed the importance of making the Stockholm conference a success by reaching effective, tangible security measures, and of strengthening trust and disarmament in Europe, which will favorably affect the overall situation in Europe and the entire world.

The two sides are of the view that getting rid of backwardness and establishing a new world economic order that would guarantee each state free conditions of development and progress are two of the main problems in our contemporary world. The two sides stressed the importance of continuing the efforts aimed at establishing such an order for the sake of the developing states so as to allow them to realize their economic freedom and exercise full sovereignty over their natural resources and exploit them in their people's interest and for their progress.

In this context, the two presidents affirmed the decisive importance of the foreign debts of the developing countries and of reaching agreements on political steps that would lead to lowering and stabilizing their interest rates at reasonable levels and ensuring the ability of these states to obtain international loans through preferential treatment.

The two sides stressed the need to realize closer cooperation among the developing countries and to coordinate their stands, in terms of both the negotiations with the developed states and the expansion of economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit.

After exchanging views on the issues of disarmament, the two sides expressed their profound concern over the arms race and the use of material, human, and financial means to serve military aims, which constitute a heavy burden on all the peoples of the world and a continuous threat to world peace and security. The two sides demand an urgent end to the arms race and effective, practical measures with the aim of effecting comprehensive disarmaments. They pointed out that the funds that can be saved as a result of reducing military expenditures can be used to solve problems that are faced by all states, particularly in terms of enhancing their economic and social progress.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with and support for the struggle to remove colonialism, neocolonialism, and racial discrimination from the African Continent. They declared the immediate need for ending the occupation of Namibia, the withdrawal of the South African forces from Namibian territory, speeding up the implementation of the UN resolutions concerning it, and handing over power in the country to the true representatives of the people, SWAPO.

The two presidents viewed with increasing concern the seriousness of the current international situation, that the majority of humanity aspires to realize freedom and independence for all the peoples and countries of the world. They stand against imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism, the policy of force, and the increase in international tension. They voice the need for working with responsibility toward removing the hotbeds of tension in the world — which is commensurate with the interests of all the peoples of the world and with international detente and cooperation. The two sides also voiced the need for increasing the role and contributions of the United Nations and the other world organizations in finding solutions for the complex problems in the world.

The two presidents highly valued the current dialogue on the summit level that is taking place between them, and the fruitful results of their talks in Damascus in the field of relations of cooperation and their continuous expansion between the two friendly countries and peoples. They expressed their desire to continue dialogue and exchange views on various levels.

The general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, and his wife expressed their deep thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife, and to the friendly Syrian people for the hospitality accorded them and the accompanying Romanian delegation.

The general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, and his wife extended an invitation to the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Hafiz al-Asad, and his wife to pay a cordial and official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure; its date will be fixed later.

Economic Memorandum

JN110845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Damascus — A memorandum of economic and trade cooperation between Syria and Romania was concluded at the Prime Ministry this afternoon on the occasion of the Romanian president's visit to Syria. The memorandum was signed on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and on the Romanian side by Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister. The members of the two delegations attended the ceremony.

The memorandum deals with promoting economic cooperation and increasing trade between Syria and Romania. It also deals with the steps and measures that the concerned institutions in the two countries will adopt in order to complete the projects, which are currently being implemented in Syria in cooperation with Romania, on schedule. The Syrian and Romanian delegations agreed to hold a session of the joint Syrian-Romanian committee for economic and technical cooperation in Bucharest during the first half of July 1984.

Israeli Military Movements in S. Lebanon Observed

Troops Mass in Al-Biqa'

JN112024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Beirut — Israeli occupation forces continued massing more troops in Al-Biqa' in order to confront the Syrian Arab forces operating in fraternal Lebanon. Reports from Beirut say that Israeli forces have brought 155-mm caliber field guns to Al-Biqa'. These guns were deployed in 'Ayn al-Jawzah near Kifrayya. Observers described these moves as the largest of their kind since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Israeli gunboats roamed the Lebanese coast in the Al-Awza'i area. They opened fire on some coastal positions. Reports from Beirut say that Israeli forces this afternoon began military maneuvers with live ammunition in southern Lebanon.

'Largest Since 1982 Invasion'

JN121806 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Reports received from southern Lebanon say that the invading Zionist forces have completed their preparations by reinforcing their military concentrations and positions along the contact lines with the Syrian forces in Lebanon. These reports add that the enemy continued to dispatch reinforcements yesterday and today in what is considered one of the largest Zionist military movements since the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon. The enemy erected several pieces of field artillery in the 'Ayn al-Jawzah area near the township of (?Kifrayya) opposite the Syrian forces.

Last week, the enemy sent a large number of armored units to Lebanon and set up surface-to-air antiaircraft missile batteries on the peak of Al-Baruk Mountain in Lebanon. Observers link the current Zionist military movements with the repeated Israeli threats against Syria — threats indicating premeditated hostile intentions against Syria.

Iraqi Group Claims Nicosia Blast Responsibility

NC121729 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Damascus, May 12 (AFP) — A previously unknown group, the Organization of Iraqi Islamic Action, has claimed responsibility for a bomb attack today in the Cypriot capital of Nicosia which took place near an Iraqi Airways office and left several wounded.

In a telephone call to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau in Damascus, a person claiming to represent the organization of Iraqi Islamic Action said: "The operation was aimed at the Iraqi military liaison office, in charge of buying and transporting arms to Iraq, as well as the intelligence section which is in the offices of the Iraqi Airways company."

He said the organization was also responsible for attacks against Iraqi embassies in Paris and Bangkok and the office of the Iraqi military representative in Rome.

Warns of Other Attacks

NC122102 Paris AFP in English 2057 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Damascus, May 12 (AFP) — A bomb attack which slightly injured several people early today outside an Iraqi airlines office in the Cypriot capital of Nicosia has been claimed by an Iraqi opposition group. In two telephone calls to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESE here and in Paris, anonymous callers identified the group as the Iraqi Islamic Action organization, which was formed in Iraq in 1975 and is also known as Iraqi Islamic Amal. The caller in Damascus said today's operation was aimed at "the Iraqi military liaison office, in charge of buying and transporting arms for Iraq, as well as the intelligence section which is in the offices of the Iraqi Airways company." He said the organization had carried out previous attacks against Iraqi embassies in Paris and Bangkok and the office of the Iraqi military representative in Rome.

A second caller claiming to speak for the organization, who telephoned AFP headquarters in Paris, said an Iraqi official running the Nicosia office had set up several Iraqi-organized terrorist attacks in Europe, but he did not name the official. The caller added that Larnaca airport in Cyprus was a major staging-post for consignments of Western arms being flown to Iraq.

The Islamic Action Organization "had it in for" Britain and France if those countries did not stop supporting the Iraqi government, the Paris caller said. He issued a similar warning to "governments of the Gulf states." "The Islamic action organization will take revenge on all these governments by military action in any country whatsoever," he said.

The Iraqi Islamic Amal organization — which has no connection whatsoever with the Lebanese Shi'a Moslem opposition movement known as Amal — is well-known in Tehran. Its representative there confirmed the Nicosia attack and said 15 kilogrammes [36 pounds] of explosives had been used in it.

Today's attack was the first claimed in several months by Iraqi opposition groups which have sought refuge in Tehran, analysts said.

13 May Cabinet Session Reviews Lebanon, U.S. Aid

Meridor Resigns as Secretary

TA131118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 May 84

[Statement read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor at the end of the weekly Cabinet session on 13 May — recorded]

[Text] At today's Cabinet session, the prime minister reviewed various political issues, including the situation in Lebanon, Israeli-Egyptian relations and U.S. aid to Israel. The prime minister replied to questions posed by the ministers following this review.

The finance minister, the Bank of Israel governor, the Finance Ministry's director general and the commissioner of the Capital Market Department reviewed the developments in the capital market in the last few months. They highlighted a positive development in which the public has been joining new savings programs, leading to an absorption of funds and to a reduction in the trade balance during the last few months. Following these reviews, the Cabinet held a debate which was summed up by the prime minister without any resolutions having been taken.

In the third and last part of the session, I informed the Cabinet of my decision to resign my position as Cabinet secretary on 17 May 1984 to comply with the requirements of the law in order to join the [Likud's] list of candidates for the Knesset.

Captured Israelis Discussed

TA131409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Efforts to release the three Israelis kidnapped by Syrian soldiers in Lebanon are continuing. To date the International Red Cross representatives have not been allowed to visit them, our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from Cabinet sources who made these remarks after the Cabinet's weekly session. The sources added that so far Lebanon has not demanded [darsha] that Israel evacuate its representation near Beirut. As part of the reinforcement of the southern army of Lebanon, General Lahhad may perhaps set up his headquarters in Sidon, rather than in An-Nabatiyah.

Shamir Reports to Cabinet

TA131728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Report by David Essing — recorded]

[Text] At today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Shamir said there has been a turn for the better in south Lebanon despite the Friday attack in An-Nabatiyah. The Israeli forces have adopted new tactics which were paying off in a significant drop in casualties. Israeli troops also enjoyed better relations with the local Shi'ite population and General Lahhad's south Lebanese army was playing a greater role. On the political level, there was no American pressure on Israel to withdraw. The Cabinet did not discuss any redeployment today. At this point there is no Lebanese demand to close the Israeli liaison office near Beirut, but there is no news on the three Israelis kidnapped by the Syrians. Damascus has still not allowed the International Red Cross to visit them and efforts are continuing.

The Cabinet was also briefed on relations with Egypt, but it did not discuss whether to oppose any more American arms going to the Egyptian Army. The ministers also heard a report on the Iran-Iraq war and an assessment of what the American role may be in future developments in the Gulf.

Further on Shamir Report

TA140839 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 May 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The International Red Cross has not yet been allowed to meet the three members of the Israeli representation in Beirut who are being held captive in Syria. At yesterday's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported on the efforts to secure the release of the three, including the contacts being held with Lebanon on this matter.

Following the meetings held by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche with State Department officials in Washington, Shamir noted that the United States supports Israel's position that Israel should not withdraw from Lebanon because it constitutes the only guarantee for the security of the northern settlements in the wake of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. Shamir also reported on the intention of the new minister for southern Lebanese affairs, Nabih Birri, to close down the Israeli representation in Beirut and to ask the United Nations to evacuate the IDF from the whole of Lebanese territory.

Shamir also reviewed Kimche's contacts in the United States regarding the freeze in the relations with Egypt. It was noted that Washington shares Israel's concern about the prospects of normalization with Egypt. The United States is also not optimistic about the chances that Egypt may return its ambassador to Tel Aviv.

Replying to one of the ministers, Shamir said that for the time being Israel is not trying to foil the supply of U.S. refueling planes to Egypt because the reports about an imminent deal with "Boeing" have not yet been confirmed.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that if the deal is submitted to the House of Representatives for it approval, Israel will voice its opposition and will argue that these planes would improve the flying range of Egyptian fighter jets. Shamir told the Cabinet that a majority is emerging in the U.S. Congress in favor of transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and that senators were also adding their names to the draft law. He noted that no reports had been received about a compromise proposal formulated by the White House. Shamir elaborated on the scope of U.S. military and civilian aid to Israel and on the decision to submit the agreement on a free trade zone to the Senate Finance Committee for its approval in an accelerated process (within 90 days). It was noted that a U.S. delegation is currently holding talks in Israel on this agreement.

After the Cabinet session, a senior political source said that the policy adopted in Lebanon recently has led to a drop in the number of attacks on and casualties among IDF soldiers. According to this source, a positive trend can be noticed regarding the contacts with the Shi'ites and the consolidation of the IDF forces. [as published]

Opposition to U.S. Arms Sale to Egypt Considered

TA130448 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Israel is considering a public campaign against the U.S. Government's intention to sell military refueling planes to Egypt. Some officials at the Israeli Embassy in Washington favor a public stand because of the state of Israeli-Egyptian relations. If such a decision is made, it will be the first time Israel objects to a U.S. arms sale to Egypt since the peace treaty was signed. The United States has sold Egypt fighter planes, armored personnel carriers and tanks in that period.

Israel also plans to complain to U.S. officials over the fact that the United States gave in to Arab pressure and left Israel out of a communications network that allows reporters in many countries to talk to a U.S. official in a satellite television interview. Because of Arab pressure, Israel was left out of the Middle East network and added to the European network instead.

Knesset To Reconvene 14 May After 6-Week Recess

TA140538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpt] The Knesset is to reconvene this morning, ending a 6-week recess. It is expected that debates will last for a month. Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor said he has asked the prime minister to open the session with a political debate.

Shamir: Israel Ready To Negotiate With Jordan

TA111122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Israel is prepared to negotiate unconditionally with Jordan, but will never agree to dismantle the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This was stated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a talk with students of the National Defense College of Canada. The prime minister stressed that Judaea and Samaria are not the same thing as the Sinai. Jews have the right to live in Hebron, in Bet El, and in Nabulus, just as Arabs have the right to live anywhere in Israel.

Shamir Defends Need for Settlement Momentum

TA131733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight held a meeting with Gush Emunim leaders, including the rabbis who met last week to denounce the actions of the underground group while agreeing to provide legal aid for the suspects. A statement is now being drafted but Gush Emunim leaders Hayim Druckman and Hanan Porat said the premier expressed concern that the affair might harm settlement in Judaea and Samaria. They agreed on the need to give the issue of settlement a push forward in light of the present depressed atmosphere among the settlers.

Settlement Leaders Discuss 'Underground'

TA131918 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria, representatives from Golan Heights settlements, and Gush Emunim leaders met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today, expressing to him their reservations about the acts attributed to the Jewish underground. Our correspondent Rami Gubernik reports that the representatives of the settlements had asked for the meeting in order to make it clear to Yitzhaq Shamir that they will not support any act that undermines the state's authority. Beni Qatzover, one of the Gush Emunim leaders, also apologized to the prime minister for having termed the detention of the suspects in the Jewish underground affair as a provocation. He said, however, that the security situation in the territories has deteriorated lately and this deterioration might have led to what indeed happened.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed deep concern at what might have happened had the bombs on the Arab buses exploded. Mr Shamir also supported Gush Emunim's decision to conduct educational activities among their members, emphasizing he would not allow the entire Jewish population and the concept of settlement in the territories to be tarnished in the wake of the discovery of the underground.

Settlement Rabbi Arrested

TA140624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The settlements of Judaea and Samaria, especially Qiryat Arba', have been shocked by the arrest of Rabbi Moshe Levinger. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that at a meeting of the Qiryat Arba' local council held during the night, it was decided to convene a meeting of the residents and summon rabbis to the settlement to raise spirits. The Council of Settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the Golan Heights is to meet this evening to discuss the arrests. Rabbi Levinger's son has told our correspondent that it was not until midnight, local time, that the police informed the family of the arrest. His father will apparently meet with an attorney today.

The police arrested Rabbi Moshe Levinger last night at the end of a protracted investigation. An inhabitant of the 'Ofra settlement in Samaria was arrested as well. Last night the president of the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court extended the arrests of five of the suspects in the affair of the Jewish underground. The detention of two of them was extended by 13 days, while three will be held for an additional 7 days. The validity of the order banning the publication of their names was also extended.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the people suspected of belonging to the Jewish underground are also being interrogated about acts of murder and attempted murders that have occurred over the past few years in several places in Judaea and Samaria and have not been solved to this day.

Shamir Approved Rabbi's Arrest

TA140850 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 May 84 p 1

[Report by Shuqi Ben-'Ami, Pinhas 'Inbari and Moti Basok]

[Excerpt] Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron was arrested at around midnight last night in connection with the investigation of the Jewish underground in the territories. A security souce said that the investigators attached the utmost importance to the exposure of the spiritual authority who had bestowed his inspiration to the underground in that this will help uproot the underground and prevent its resurgence. It is not yet known whether Rabbi Levinger is that spiritual authority but it is believed that he was at least aware of the existence of the underground because its key members lived in the Jewish quarter of Hebron. It has also been learned that his arrest was conducted with the approval of the prime minister who had asked the police not to make such a move unless they had no other choice.

Arens on Unilateral Implement of Lebanon Accord

TA111518 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1437 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Haifa, 11 May (ITIM) — Anyone who proposes that we should unilaterally implement the 17 May agreement with Lebanon and pull the IDF out of Lebanon would do well to read the agreement between Israel and Lebanon. He will then understand that it cannot be implemented like this. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said this today at the Herut movement's Economic-Political Club in Haifa.

Minister Arens made the remarks in reaction to Mr Shim'on Peres' proposal that Israel should take its forces out of Lebanon. He said the Lebanese Government was not prepared or willing to impose order in southern Lebanon, and there was no way to unilaterally implement the agreement, which determines that the Lebanese Army should take upon itself the task of preventing terrorist actions in the southern Lebanese area.

"We cannot force that miserable army to take upon itself the task of preventing terrorist actions," the defense minister said. According to him, the only alternative at this stage is for the IDF to continue to take charge of preventing terrorist actions in southern Lebanon. The defense minister said he had discussed security arrangements with local military elements who would in future take this task upon themselves, and permit us to transfer the burden from the IDF to local shoulders. He emphasized that "We have been working for a considerable time on this task, and we are getting results." The southern army of Lebanon is becoming stronger, and its commander is a Lebanese patriot who believes in friendly relations between Israel and Lebanon, he said.

Mr Arens expressed his confidence that there would be peace and security in the Galilee and the IDF would not need to remain in southern Lebanon. However, in the meantime the campaign is continuing; and we need patience and determination to reach this situation. The minister stressed that ever since the first rocket shells fell on the Galilee panhandle, the Galilee residents had suffered from a bloody toll imposed upon them by the terrorists for 14 years. We shelled the terrorists with artillery and aircraft, we carried out raids from the sea and from the air, and we went out on the Litani campaign; we even bombed Beirut, but nothing helped.

The minister recalled that almost 2 years had passed since the Peace for Galilee campaign and nobody had been harmed, neither women nor children in the Galilee. "For the past 2 years, people in the Galilee have been living above ground, not underground."

He added that the PLO's motivation to strike at the Galilee still existed, and for the past month or 2 months attempts had been made to hit targets in the Galilee with Katyushas, but they had not succeeded in getting any hits. "The will exists, but the ability is limited, since the IDF is in southern Lebanon," the defense minister said.

Referring to the election campaign, Mr Arens proposed raising the threshold so as to prevent a situation in which small parties would be decisive in making up a coalition.

In reply to questions by correspondents, the minister said that the committee that had been established to investigate the events in the IDF raid on the Tel Aviv-Ashqelon bus would complete its work in the near future. "I have instructed the committee to investigate the affair thoroughly, and I believe it will do so," he said.

Further Arens Remarks

TA140650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] We are helping General Antoine Lahhad's army in southern Lebanon as much as possible to ensure that terrorism will not return to our northern border. This statement was made last night by Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens at a rally of Jewish students from the United States and Canada in Moshav Shoresh. Our correspondent Nisan Horowitz is here to bring us some of the defense minister's remarks:

[Begin Arens recording — in English] At the present time, we are providing whatever encouragement and assistance we can to the local population, to the southern Lebanese army and to the commander, Gen Lahhad, and to all the local groups who feel that it is in their interests as well that there not be terrorist activity from their area against Israel. [end recording]

[Horowitz — translates and continues] These groups, Arens added, are preventing terrorist actions against Israel from Lebanese territory. The defense minister was received last night with stormy applause by some 200 Jewish students from the United States and Canada, who are staying in Israel as part of a program organized by the World Zionist Federation. During the evening, the minister was asked about the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two terrorists in the affair of the bus hijacked in Dayr al-Balah.

[Begin Arens recording — in English] We have an inquiry commission working on that incident, and I think it behooves us all to wait until they come up with their results. I would guess that all of us would agree that, if given a choice between a thorough investigation or a fast investigation, we would prefer to have a thorough investigation. [end recording]

Labor Leaders Discuss Political Platform

TA111412 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1145 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 11 May (ITIM) — At the opening session of the Alignment's political platform committee today, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that a special section in the platform must be dedicated to strengthening the IDF. On the issue of the Lebanese war, Peres said that the Alignment's stand is well known: An Alignment government would strive for security arrangements that would ensure the security of the Galilee villages and allow the IDF to return home.

Peres said that the renewal of the peace process and negotiations with Jordan must be based on the following principles:

1. We will not remove existing settlements.
2. We will offer Jordan negotiations without preconditions, based on UN resolutions 242 and 338.
3. We will change the settlement policy.
4. We will announce our willingness to negotiate over the Gaza Strip first.

MK Rabin said that in the political and defense areas, the following subjects must be treated:

1. Renewing the peace process;
2. Bringing new life to our relations with Egypt;
3. Ending the IDF presence in Lebanon.

Rabin said that 4 years of freeze in the autonomy talks created in the public a feeling of despair about the peace process. We should turn to Jordan and offer to open negotiations without preconditions. However, we must make it clear that we cannot remove existing settlements. Rabin said it was unfortunate that the Likud was not able to realize its suggestions about leaving the settlements in the Rafah approaches under Egyptian sovereignty, as part of the peace agreement, instead of destroying Yamit. MK Abba Eban said that the criticism on the way the Likud conducted the war in Lebanon is not criticism of a certain event, but rather of a distorted concept of the country's security and the role of the IDF as a defense oriented army. Eban said that those who head the Likud today do all they can to prove that the peace with Egypt was a mistake.

Simha Dinitz said that the problem with the Likud government is that instead of dealing with security problems, they are dealing with the ideology of security; instead of secure borders, they are dealing with all of Eretz Yisra'el. They are not patriots; they are stricken by fantasies. Hayim Tzadoq said that the settlement policy of the Alignment will be based only on security needs, and not political needs. We should offer to negotiate with Jordan on peace, and then it will be possible to discuss freezing the settlements. It must also be said that the phenomenon of insane Jewish terrorism could have been created only on the fringes of the Likud's ideology, and that on the fringes of the ideology of the Labor movement there has notbeen and never will be room for such phenomena.

Chairman of the Political Committee MK Ya'aqov Tzur said that we must warn the public about the use of excessive force, as was used by the Likud in Lebanon, and about the belief that it is possible to change the political map in the Middle East with the help of the IDF, rather than by political means.

Peres Denies Promising Husayn 'Change of Direction'

TA130958 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 May 84 pp 1, 6

[Report from London by Ruth Kohen]

[Text] Rumors are rampant in Amman to the effect that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres sent a personal message to King Husayn, promising the Jordanian monarch a "fundamental change of direction" if he is elected prime minister. This is reported by the British weekly *OBSERVER* today. Mr Peres' spokesman, who was last night [as published] requested to react to the *OBSERVER* report, said: "This report is without any foundation. One would imagine its proper place to be on the *OBSERVER*'s comic page. The *OBSERVER* correspondent who interviewed King Husayn reports that if peace negotiations open between Israel and Jordan, Husayn will be prepared to propose to Israel "absolute peace in return for a total withdrawal from the territories." The correspondent adds that "the principle will be the application of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which will not be the subject of negotiations, However, there is certainly room for negotiations regarding the manner of its implementation."

Denies Foreign Contacts

TA131136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has denied that leaders of his party have held contacts with various countries, except for the issue of the three Israelis taken prisoner by the Syrians. Peres told our correspondent Asher Schwartz that he is firmly opposed to having foreign elements interfering in the election campaign in Israel.

'Ezer Weizman on Fahd's Peace Initiative

TA140536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman has said that Saudi Arabian King Fahd's peace initiative should not be rejected out of hand. We can tell Fahd that Israel is prepared to talk without preconditions, and if he does not alter his program's eight clauses, Israel will propose 28 clauses of its own. Weizman has called for negotiations with any Arab ruler who is prepared to sign a peace agreement with us. 'Ezer Weizman is also recommending there should be no opposition to the sale of U.S. refueling planes to Egypt. In his view, the government's opposition proves a lack of belief in peace. He was speaking at an election rally in Nahariyya.

Navon Mentioned as Foreign Ministry Candidate

TA130824 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 84 p 2

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon has been mentioned as a candidate for the post of foreign minister in the Alignment government. The timing for making this fact public has been under discussion in the party during the past few days.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned from sources close to Navon that the latter is giving this candidacy serious consideration and, moreover, is interested in the post. Considerable pressue has been exerted on Labor Party Chairman Peres in recent weeks to publish the names of the Alignment candidates for the senior positions in his Cabinet. This pressure increased after MAPAM made public the names of its candidates for Alignment Cabinet posts. Reference is to Eli'ezer Ronen and Dov Peleg.

Peres has so far been hesitant about publishing the names of his candidates for the posts of foreign and finance ministers, due to problems concerning the composition of the Knesset list, as well as trepidation regarding the reaction of MK Abba Eban, who has until now been considered the only candidate for foreign minister. Assessments have now been heard in the Labor Party that Peres will decide to publish the names of his candidates for these two positions within 2 weeks. The main figures in this respect are Yitzhaq Navon for foreign minister, and Gad Ya'aqobi for finance minister.

Navon Sees Need for Withdrawal Target Date

TA140535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon has said that Israel must decide on a target date for a withdrawal from Lebanon. He told high school students in Tel Aviv that while it was true that there was no need to run away from Lebanon, Israel should depart from the area once the northern settlements' safety has been guaranteed.

Birri Hints Israeli Representation To Be Closed

TA121518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri has hinted that the government of which he is a member intends to close Israel's liaison office in the Christian quarter of Ad-Dubbiyah in East Beirut. At a news conference in Beirut, Birri said the national unity government had asked Prime Minister Karami and Foreign Minister Camille Sham'un to prepare a report on the status of the Israeli representation to make it possible for the government to decide what to do with it.

Sources on Closing Representation

TA121854 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem have told our political correspondent today that, for the moment, there is no sign of an intention by the Lebanese Government to close the Israeli representation near Beirut. The sources did not, however, reject the possibilty that the Lebanese Government would in the end decide to close the representation, but they did stress that there was no question of this happening in the foreseeable future.

Terrorists Holding Fatah Documents Killed in Hebron

TA121900 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Last night two terrorists were killed in the Hebron hills area in a clash with an IDF force. Our correspondent reports that the pair were apparently Fatah members. Security sources report that membership documents were discovered among the terrorists' belongings and some of the personal belongings found in their possession had been acquired in Jordan. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports.

[Begin videotape] It has been learned that the two terrorists were equipped for an attack. Four Soviet-made hand grenades were found in their possession, as well as a Soviet-made 9-mm rifle, a miniature Italian rifle, and two knives. They also had in their possession detailed maps of the area, in Arabic and English, and Fatah membership documents. The terrorists were equipped for a long stay in the field. They had changes of clothing which were brand new and had prices marked in Jordanian currency. The cigarettes and medicine they had with them were also made in Jordan. We may perhaps learn of the terrorists' departure base from this. The direction in which the terrorists were moving indicated they were headed for two nearby settlements, (Adoram) and Telem, although they may have been on their way to somewhere much farther.

Hebron Villages Under Curfew

TA121712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The security forces have imposed a curfew on two villages in the western Hebron hills area, near the place where two terrorists were killed yesterday in a clash with an IDF force. The two villages are Idnah and Tarqumiyah. Some of the village inhabitants have been interrogated. In yesterday's clash fire was directed from an ambush at an IDF force. Our soldiers returned fire and killed two terrorists. Our forces suffered no casualties. The terrorists possessed personal weapons and hand grenades.

IDF Soldier Killed in An-Nabatiyah Attack

TA111405 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] This morning an IDF soldier was killed and an Israeli citizen was slightly wounded in An-Nabatiyah, Lebanon, when a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF convoy. The convoy personnel returned fire and IDF forces began searching operations. The dead man's family has been informed.

Site of Attack Demolished

TA121912 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] This morning IDF forces in southern Lebanon demolished the house from which a hand grenade was thrown yesterday at an IDF convoy in An-Nabatiyah. In that incident IDF Lieutenant Yosef Binyon was killed.

Lebanese Civilian Wounded by IDF in Sidon

TA130632 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0545 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 13 May (ITIM) — Concerning the report on Saturday night that a Lebanese civilian was killed by fire opened by IDF soldiers, military sources in Lebanon have said that the man was not killed but rather injured. According to these sources, the man was taken to a hospital in Sidon by local inhabitants and is reportedly in satisfactory condition.

FRG Work on Iranian Nuclear Plant To Be Investigated

TA131621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Israel will use diplomatic means to investigate reports from the FRG that have reached Jerusalem alleging that some 50 German scientists are currently engaged in preparations to construct a nuclear power plant in Iran. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

ALGERIA

Presidential Clemency Releases 90 Prisoners

LD132248 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] It was learned this evening that the measures of clemency announced by President Chadli Bendjedid to the mujahidin on 8 May, during the second seminar on writing the history of the revolution, have been given substance by the release of 90 people. These 90 people were held in penitentiary establishments in [name indistinct], Al-Harrash, Medea and Laghouat.

AFP on Release

NC140745 Paris AFP in English 0651 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Algiers, May 14 (AFP) — Ninety political prisoners, some held for two years without trial, were freed Sunday under an amnesty announced by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid last Tuesday, informed sources said here.

The amnesty appeared to have applied to most political prisoners in Algeria. Among the 90 were 10 former ministers of the government of President Ahmed Ben Bella, who was overthrown by a military junta in 1965. Lawyer Ali Yahia Abdenour and Mohamed Seghir Nekkache, a medical doctor, were arrested in October with some 20 other people after arms headed for Algeria were discovered at the Franco-Belgian border. More than a third of the amnestied prisoners were fundamentalist Moslems arrested two years ago for possession of weapons and explosives. They included fundamentalist Moslem leaders Imam Ahmed Sahnoun and Abbas Madani, a sociology professor. Three leaders of Algeria's feminist movement were also released.

When he announced the amnesty, President Chadli Bendjedid had said it showed "the grandeur and vigour of the Algerian revolution and the tolerance which characterizes it."

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Withdraw From Chad

PM141031 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 May 84 pp 1,3

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Colonel al-Qadhdhafi Says He Is Prepared To Withdraw His Troops From Chad 'Immediately'"]

[Text] Tripoli — The Franco-Libyan dialogue on settling the Chadian conflict is continuing without interruption, sometimes quietly through diplomatic channels and sometimes publicly through the media. On 30 April Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said on French Television Channel 1 he was prepared "to carry out the withdrawal of our presence in Chad...." Five days later Mr Charles Hernu stated — a tit-for-tat answer? — that France wanted its troops "to be withdrawn as soon as possible...a few minutes after the withdrawal of the Libyan forces."

Col al-Qadhdhafi is raising the stakes. During an interview he granted us, he stated immediately, referring to the French defense minister's remarks, that he was prepared to "immediately withdraw our experts who went to Chad to support that country's legitimate government." That, of course, was an allusion to the National Unity Transition Government [GUNT], which disputes the legality of the regime installed in Ndjamena by Mr Hissein Habre.

The Libyan "revolution guide" revealed that a few days ago, via former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, he sent President Mitterrand a message containing proposals not only on the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Chad but also regarding the future of Franco-Libyan relations.

Col al-Qadhdhafi asserted that the time taken for the withdrawal could be very short: "When present in Chad previously at the request of that country's government, our units withdrew in 1982 in 10 days. Nonetheless, at that time our forces were substantial and spread throughout our southern neighbor's provinces.

"Today, I repeat," Col al-Qadhdhafi added, "our withdrawal could take place instantaneously."

However, the Jamahiriyah leader implicitly expressed doubts about France's intentions. He stated: "I am afraid that Mr Hernu is going too far in asserting that the withdrawal of the French Army would take place several minutes after our departure. The French Government would be plunged into the greatest embarrassment since it justified its army's presence by ours."

Distrust does not rule out friendship. Col al-Qadhdhafi immediately added: "However, we do not want to embarrass the French Government. People must realize I regard myself as the friend of the Socialists and of Mr Mitterrand, and that I will do everything in my power to make their task easier. I much prefer the team now in power to a right-wing government subject to America's will."

The "revolution guide" has great ambitions for the future of Franco-Libyan relations. In the same breath, he continued: "I hope to develop our bilateral relations in all spheres: to encourage joint action in other countries, especially in Africa and the Arab world. I attach more importance to this twofold objective than to the type of government eventually installed in Chad. That is why I think Libya and France ought not to quarrel on a matter concerning a third state; it is in their common interest to pull out of the conflict. There are many civil wars throughout the world. Why should we interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states?"

Col al-Qadhdhafi concluded his long defense case in these words: "Let us leave the Chadians to reach agreement among themselves. They will then no longer need France or Libya. We must make special efforts to end our dispute immediately since it is hindering the development of our relations."

A Noteworthy Change

Question: If that was the case, why do you not immediately set the date for the withdrawal of the Libyans who are in Chad?

Answer: This question depends on the outcome of our diplomatic exchanges with France. I entrusted to Chancellor Bruno

Kreisky a verbal message for Mr Mitterrand making him proposals for the solution of the Chadian problem and for the faster development of our bilateral relations. I am awaiting President Mitterrand's reply. [answer ends]

Taken at face value, Col al-Qadhdhafi's statements would mark a noteworthy change in his previous positions. By refraining from condemning the French intervention alone, by offering to withdraw his "experts," and also by no longer talking of Chad as the "continuation of the Jamahiriyah," Mr al-Qadhdhafi is, in a way, placing Libya and France on the same level in face of a "sovereign state" in the throes of a "civil war."

Moreover, the Libyan "revolution guide" did not discuss the diplomatic process — started mainly through the OAU — intended to encourage national reconciliation in Chad. Has he decided to separate the political dispute from the military aspect of the conflict?

It would probably be risky to draw final conclusions from his latest stance. However, his present conciliatory attitude will scarcely surprise Western diplomatic circles in Tripoli. Indeed, a number of factors make it possible to maintain that Col al-Qadhdhafi has for some time been seeking an honorable way out of the blind alley in which he now is. He obviously prefers a complete and "immediate" withdrawal to the gradual withdrawal which French diplomacy recently proposed to him.

An Unpopular War

It is generally thought here that the Jamahiriyah leader would like to pull out for many reasons connected with Libya's interests. He is convinced there will be no military solution to the power struggle taking place in the southern neighboring country, and that this struggle is therefore likely to go on indefinitely. Moreover, a journalist passing through Tripoli quickly discovers the Chad war is very unpopular in Libyan public opinion. In a time of economic crisis and austerity, nobody appreciates a particularly burdensome intervention. Even the Army, which is experiencing growing difficulties in the logistical sphere and is encountering the local population's hostility at times, would like to withdraw as soon as possible. The high command, for its part, apparently fears a revival of the fighting which would cost the Libyan Army dearly. Nobody here has forgotten that more than 1,500 soldiers were killed during the 1980-1982 military intervention.

GUNT "Defense Minister" Acheikh ibn Oumar, at present in Tripoli, admitted rather reluctantly that it is "in the interests of Libya and France to withdraw from Chad." But he immediately added that such a development would be "dangerous" for the opposition forces. "Indeed," he told us, "we have information that the United States, Sudan, Egypt, Zaire, and other countries are actively preparing to give help to Mr Hissein Habre's regime. Once the Libyans have gone, our enemies will strive to eliminate us."

Such an eventuality would probably be unacceptable to Col al-Qadhdhafi, who fears above all that a government hostile to Libya will be permanently established in Ndjamena. That is why he is insisting that a compromise be concluded exclusively "among Chadians." The future will tell whether or not his offer to withdraw his army from Chad is linked to political guarantees which he would request from France.

UK, U.S. 'Support' for 'Terrorist Elements' Protested

LD131332 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau this morning summoned the Italian ambassador in his capacity of looking after British interests in the Jamahiriyah and handed him a protest note regarding the British Government's involvement through aiding and supporting terrorist elements in Britain to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism in and outside the Jamahiriyah. The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau informed the Italian ambassador that by carrying out such an act Britain has become a partner in these terrorist acts, which the Jamahiriyah considers hostile acts directed against the Libyan Arab people.

The Belgian charge d'affaire was also summoned since Belgium is the caretaker of U.S. interests in the Jamahiriyah, and a protest note was handed to him concerning U.S. involvement through offering aid and support to terrorist elements to carry out sabotage and terrorist acts in and outside the Jamahiriyah. The Belgian charge d'affaires was informed that by these actions the U.S. Government has become a partner to these criminals, and that the Jamahiriyah considers this to be a hostile act directed against the Libyan Arab people. The People's Committee of People's Foreign Liaison Bureau demanded the Belgian Government make efforts to secure the release of the two Libyan students arrested recently in the United States under feeble pretexts and unfounded fabrications.

'Terrorist' Leader Killed in Tripoli 12 May

NC130640 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Yesterday the revolutionary force killed one terrorist member of the terrorist group that infiltrated the Jamahiriyah to carry out acts of sabotage against the people's establishments and installations as well as to assassinate a number of citizens.

This rotten corpse tried to escape with the other members of the terrorist group. He hid in a residential building in Tripoli after the revolutionary force began to chase him to eliminate him. The revolutionary force discovered his hiding place. The force members asked him to surrender but he tried to escape. He was fired on, killed, and [words indistinct]. This corpse was the leader of the terrorist group of corpses that were destroyed. This terrorist is named (Wajdi ash-Shurbi). This is the fate that will meet traitors and stray dogs wherever they are. It is recalled that the revolutionary force eliminated a group of terrorists that had infiltrated one of the residential buildings in Tripoli last Tuesday morning. A terrorist group comprising three persons was arrested last Sunday while trying to cross into the Jamahiriyah from Tunisia. The group tried to escape while under arrest. The people's security men chased them and one member of the group was killed during this operation, while two others were wounded.

It is also recalled that these terrorist groups belong to the Muslim Brotherhood, an agent of the United States. They are trained in camps in Sudan. They also receive further training from police in Britian and the United States inside special camps.

Arrests Continuing

NC111756 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Paris, May 11 (AFP) — Arrests of people suspected of involvement in a commando attack Tuesday on an Army barracks in Tripoli were continuing today, although the situation in Libya had calmed down considerably, according to informed diplomatic sources contacted by telephone from here.

"Life is slowly getting back to normal, but arrests are continuing without any particular line of attack" being apparent, the sources said.

The arrests had the appearance of a "settling of accounts" with certain groups seen as particularly turbulent, including university circles and Moslem fundamentalists, the sources added.

After the attack, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who uses the barracks as a residence and headquarters, accused the opposition Moslem Brotherhood of carrying it out.

Strict security measures in Tripoli are not seriously affecting daily life and as is traditional on Thursday evenings, the streets yesterday echoed with the sound of wedding parties, the sources said.

Libyan television showed footage of country-wide demonstrations yesterday in support of Col al-Qadhdhafi.

JANA Comment on TAP Statement Stresses Unity

LD132209 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Tripoli 13 May (JANA) — JANA's political commentator has commented on the statement carried by TAP which was attributed to official Tunisian quarters, concerning the operations executed by a handful of terrorists who had set out from Tunisia. He said:

First, we value the eagerness shown by the Tunisian Government to uphold the principles of good neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of others, and also the eagerness shown by Tunisia in relation to integration and cooperation between the two sister countries with the aim of achieving full unity.

Second, we are not out to cast doubt on these principles and the eagerness of the Tunisian Government to uphold them. Also, we are not preoccupied with accusing the Tunisian Government and its officials. At the same time, we find ourselves with firm proof which cannot be doubted, represented in documents and facts which confirm the entry, exit, and infiltration by these terrorists from the Tunisian land.

Third, the aspiration and goodwill expressed by the Tunisian Government does not deny the fact that the terrorists have visited Tunisia, as their passports have shown, and that they had set out from it to Libya.

Fourth and last: There is no doubt that a Tunisian side or sides have facilitated the entry of those terrorists of Libya from Tunisia to carry out terrorist operations against the Libyan people and its gains. It is our joint task to discover those sides which aim to harm relations between the two sister countries, and which have other objectives against Libya and Tunisia.

'Biggest Angry Demonstration' Held in Tripoli

LD131344 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] Hundreds of thousands of sons of the Libyan Arab people came out today in the biggest angry popular demonstration witnessed in Tripoli to declare a popular overpowering challenge to all the enemies of people's authority and readiness to eliminate all traitors, terrorists and infiltrators. Huge masses of people flowed from various neighboring municipalities to the Green Square declaring their open challenge to all fascist bourgeois agents, traitors and hireling enemies, stressing their absolute determination to punish them wherever they are found and to carry out the immediate execution of Muslim Brotherhood cliques and U.S. agents who have infiltrated into the Jamahiriyah to carry out terrorist and sabotage acts against the people's socialist installations and markets and to assassinate citizens.

People To 'Export Revolution

LD132037 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Sha'ban 13, May 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Hundreds of thousands of Libyan Arab citizens today staged one of the biggest angry popular demonstrations ever seen in the city of Tripoli to announce the resolute popular challenge to all the enemies of people's authority and readiness to exterminate all traitors, terrorists and desecrators.

The masses participating in the angry demonstration then issued the following statement:

The popular masses in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah who are liberated from the shackles of dictatorship and need, believe that their duties are not only limited to defending themselves in the face of the conspiracies and aggression devised by imperialist circles and arbitrarily carried out by Arab reaction. These masses, which were emancipated and established their free Jamahiriyah and happy revolutionary society, find themselves responsible for erupting revolution everywhere so as to exterminate dictatorship, reaction, fascism and hirelings of imperialism which are the basis of terrorism and aggression. The basis of the dialectic of the conflict between the revolution and the forces hostile to the peoples stipulates that one of the sides annihilates forever its opponent or else threats, terrorism and destruction would continue. In order that reactionary and fascist forces, agents of imperialism, do not export their terrorism to take revenge from a people who liberated themselves and open the road towards progress through blood and sweat, this people are committed to export the revolution, to liberate the millions enslaved around them and to uproot the bases of corruption, treason and treachery, expressing thus themselves and removing away from them the threat of destruction.

Because Arab reaction betrayed the nationalist cause, conspired with Zionism and obeyed its will by becoming a guardian for its interests, the open and boundless battle, has begun and it is impossible to retreat. Because the comprehensive open and boundless battle was waged, in which the Arab people confront a dirty alliance and its hirelings imperialism, Zionism and treasonous Arab reaction, the Libyan Arab people then are forced to wage the battle within the framework [words indistinct] and width of scale. They are also undoubtedly forced to strike without mercy to liquidate small and large hostile forces at home and abroad, while facing their destiny in the struggle for freedom against the enemies of freedom and progress and without neglecting any enemy, whoever this enemy may be, even if he were a criminal individual who crossed the border and met with his ill-fated destiny there and then. Moreover, they are forced as from now to liquidate all those who are not on their rank at home and abroad. They believe that their first duty is to exterminate the Fifth Column then storm the nests of crime in the trenches of Arab reaction and imperialist colonies which tried to gain time so as to suppress the will of the masses towards liberation and unity, conspiring with the historical enemies of our people so as to destroy our nation, its achievements and its freedom.

The Arab popular masses are called for a popular liberation war and for lighting the wick of nationalist civil war that would unite the Arab nationalist entity and enable the masses to confront their enemies, imperialism, Zionism and racism and crush the treacherous subservient reaction.

The traitors from Egypt and Sudan's rulers and the bad symbols conspiring within the Tunisian regime are in collusion with the American and British imperialism to harm the interests of our people, undermine their freedom and force them to give up their nationalist and progressive choices. They are equipping and training traitors from the stray dogs, infiltrating them through sham borders to take revenge from our people because our people liberated themselves from their evil and gave stark evidence of their treason showing the successful and scientific example to the peoples of the world by establishing the Jamahiriyah (masses society) and the era of the popular masses on the rubble of fascist reactionary dictatorial hegemony, thus creating a real and effective indicator and agitator for popular masses throughout the world to follow and adopt as the only means towards realising freedom, progress and justice.

The reality of Arab reaction becomes clear to the popular masses who insist on the following:

1. Execute traitors, terrorists, remnants of parties, all stray dogs and those who cooperate with them or have a link with their activities.

2. Liquidate the remnants of the filthy monarchic society.

3. Prepare to enter the battle with agent reactionary regime in Sudan after confirmation of its total bias towards the Libyan people together with all other Arab regimes which helped in any form cooperate with the stray dogs.

4. Establish the principle of turning Libyan Arab people into suicidal groups to exterminate the enemies of the revolution abroad and confirm that Britain and America will never be able to protect the stray dogs.

More Popular Demonstrations

LD121012 Tripoli JANA in English 0918 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 12, May 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Basic People's Congresses' masses which organised on Thursday angry popular demonstrations have confirmed the continuation of popular revolution struggles to liquidate the enemies of the revolution wherever they may be including the remnants of fascists, tyrants and bourgeois so that their ill-fated destiny becomes that which faced agent terrorists at the hands of the revolutionary force.

During their demonstrations of anger the masses embodied the will of the free people continuing the revolutionary struggle to decide the battles in favour of the toiling poor masses and to uproot traitors and agents from the happy masses society.

The wave of popular wrath continued all day on Thursday throughout the Jamahiriyah. In Kabaw, al-Kufrah, Wazin and Hun masses of the Basic People's Congresses took to the streets in massive demonstrations during which they declared their challenge to all enemies and traitors opposed to the people's authority including reactionaries, fascists and hirelings. They also reiterated their readiness to fight until death so as to crush them totally wherever they may be.

uf blank,l Then the masses released statements in which they reaffirmed their eternal solidarity with the revolution and its leader as well as their continuation to realise more achievements already realised in various fields thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution. They further announced their readiness to carry out the death order and thwart all base attempts as well as become suicidal missions to pursue the remnants of terrorists, stray dogs and agent Muslim brotherhood cliques who sold themselves for the service of imperialism, expressing their deep anger over the filthy terrorist conspiracies by terrorist cliques who were trained in special camps in America, Britain and Sudan. The masses then voiced their determination to severely punish these defeatist elements however protected and wherever they may be.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Messages of Support

LD111235 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received numerous cables condemning strongly the infiltration of a group of terrorists into the Jamahiriyah, to carry out sabotage acts against public establishments and to destroy the modern achievements which have been accomplished in the Jamahiriyah. They also intended to assassinate a number of citizens.

The cables also condemned the USA Administration, the British Government and the hireling in the Sudan for conspiring with these terrorists, providing them with weapons and explosives and training them.

Those who sent the cables declared that they stand by and join the Arab Libyan people and the leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in standing up against the conspiracies weaved by the imperialist circles, headed by the USA Administration against the Arab Libyan people. Those imperialists who are striving to hinder the leader's vanguard role in supporting freedom anywhere. The cables were sent by the supporters of:

- Al Fatah revolution in Europe
- The National Front and the National Movement in Congo
- The Egyptian National Front in the Jamahiriyah
- The Arab Syrian people in the town of Al-Shati
- The general leadership of the National Arab Unity in Tunis
- The people of the Islamic Conference in West Berlin
- The Jordan Arab Revolutionary Committee in Bulgaria
- The Revolutionary Arab Lebanese Committee in Bulgaria
- The Arab Revolutionary Force in Cyprus
- The General Arab Students Union, Damascus
- The people of the Basic People's Congress in Venezuela
- The force of the Arab Egyptians in Tripoli
- The people of the Basic Congress in Australia
- The Arab Libyan, Soviet Friendship Society
- The Revolutionary Force in Italy
- The Revolutionary Force in Spain
- The Revolutionary Force in USA

and the Executive Bureau for the Arab Nasirites Unionist students, Vienna.

Benin President Phones

LD111243 Tripoli JANA in English 0856 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The president of the People's Republic of Benin Ahmad Kerekou held a telephone conversation with the leader of the revolution in which he denounced the terrorist action launched by regimes hostile to the Libyan Arab people and reaffirmed his country's stand on the side of Jamahiriyah confronting this terrorist action.

GUNT Leader Cables

LD111256 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Bardai, 11 May (JANA) — Goukouni Oueddei, head of the legitimate Government of National Unity [GUNT] in Chad, has sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution in which he asserted cohesion in the struggle to foil all imperialist terroristic plots and to confront them relentlessly.

Goukouni Oueddei condemned the cowardly acts of terrorism which a group of hired terrorists was planning to carry out against the achievements of the Libyan Arab people. He affirmed the stance of the people of Chad on the side of the Libyan Arab people in their courageous confrontation of these cowardly acts of terrorism.

Saudi Envoy Condemns Attack

LD111804 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The brother leader today received Shaykh 'Ali Muslim, personal envoy of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. The envoy expressed to the brother leader his country's support for the Libyan Arab peopleand their revolution and leadership in confronting and liquidating the terrorist cells which tried to assault the achievements of the Libyan Arab people after receiving military training and other instructions from the United States, Britain, and Sudan.

King Fahd's personal envoy stressed that his country condemns the terrorist act which was directed by hostile regimes against the Libyan people, and expressed confidence that the Libyan people will be able to defeat all the conspiracies plotted against them.

Moroccan Emissary Conveys Support

LD111758 Tripoli JANA in English 1514 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A Moroccan emissary arrived in Tripoli yesterday to express support of the Moroccan Government and brotherly people to the Libyan Arab people in confronting terrorist acts organised by hostile regimes which terrorist cells attempted to stage as they infiltrated to Jamahiriyah after being trained for such acts in special camps in America, Britain and Sudan.

Secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, Muftah Ku'aybah received yesterday the Moroccan emissary, Hashim al-Hafiz, who stressed his country's stand of support with the Jamahiriyah and its people in confronting all the antagonistic challenges. He also condemned the cowardly terrorist acts which the agent, terrorist infiltrators intended to carry out against the Libyan people's achievements.

YAR President Telephones

LD112032 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 May 84

[Text]Tripoli, 11 May (JANA) — YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih telephoned brother leader of the revolution and condemned the anti-Libyan Arab people action directed by hostile regimes who trained and armed hireling terrorist groups which were destroyed as soon as they were discovered.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih confirmed to the brother leader the support of his country for the Libyan Arab people and its revolution and leader in confronting all the conspiracies and the terrorist actions, and expressed his full confidence that the Libyan Arab people are able to deter those who conspire against popular authority.

More Messages Received

LD122100 Tripoli JANA in English 1733 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 12, May 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The masses of the Basic People's Congresses and revolutionary forces throughout the Jamahiriyah which staged angry demonstrations last Thursday have confirmed their resolute challenge to the enemies of the Libyan Arab people and their revolutionary policies, including imperialists, reactionaries, traitors and hired agents. The masses further reaffirmed their permanent readiness to carry out the death order and physically liquidate them wherever they may be.

In cables sent to the leader of the revolution they further reaffirmed their eternal solidarity with the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader, revolutionary thinker Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and their continuation to realise more achievements for the revolution which will remain strong through the masses for which it came and which it allowed to possess authority, wealth and weapons.

The masses further called for the need to down fascist stooge Numayri for the cowardly action he carried out against the Libyan Arab people and stressed that the Jamahiriyah people will not remain silent over this and are capable of reciprocal action in retaliation against what he did, his training of terrorist cells, the enemies of the people's authority, in special camps to implement the traps of his imperialist and reactionary masters.

The masses and the revolutionary force also stressed the need for the immediate execution of the terrorists and liquidation of their enemies at home and abroad so that it becomes a lesson for all those who try to harm people's authority and their civilizational achievements.

The cables came from the revolutionary forces and Basic People's Congresses in Zaiwa centre, Badr al Joush, Sarman, Barnak al-Shati', Shuwayrif, Qasr al-Khiyar, Al-Hawari in Al-Kufrah as well as the revolutionary forces in Yugoslavia, Hungary, Japan, Austria, the student force in Canada, the revolutionary committee platform in Sabri, the mujahidin at Al-Jabal al-Akhdar municipality, poets gathering at Al-Kufrah municipality, revolutionary force at Higher Institute for Technology in Barnak al-Shati'.

The leader of the revolution today received more cables strongly denouncing the action directed by the regimes hostile to the Libyan Arab people and the infiltration of a group of terrorists into Jamahiriyah to carry out sabotage operations against popular installations and institutions and civilisational achievements and to assassinate several citizens.

The authors of the cables denounced the American and British Governments and stooge Numayri for their collusion with these terrorists, their training in special camps for carrying out sabotage and terrorist actions and their supplying with weapons and explosives, stressing their support for and solidarity with the Libyan Arab people and its leader in confronting imperialist plans aimed at thwarting Jamahiriyah's role in support of freedom causes everywhere.

The cables came from:

Arab revolutionary force in Al-bayda' and Al-Jabal al-Akhdar,
The General Union of Students at Jamahiriyah,
The masses of the Egyptian Arab Basic People's Congress in Al-Jabal al-Akhdar municipality,
The revolutionary Egyptian Arab force in the city of Misrata,
Mauritanian Arab masses in the city of Al-Shararah al-Al'ula (Sabha),
Ahmad Murad the secretary of the Canadian Arab relations society,
Muhammed Dahir Hussayn minister of information and chairman of the brotherhood Libyan Arab-Maldives Brotherhood Society,
Revolutionary Arab-Nigerian committees.

Polisario Cable

LD122145 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 12 May (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received a cable from Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario. Here is the text:

Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution:

At this critical time, during which the hands of the coward agents of imperialism are extended in an attempt to assault the achievements of the fraternal Libyan Arab people which were gained through the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, I am pleased along with the SDAR people, who face another part of the conspiracy aimed against the progressive forces in the Arab arena, to express to you our solidarity and unlimited support for the Libyan Arab people and their colossal revolution against this imperialist scheme, which is aimed against the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its great achievements, because it is considered the vanguard of the revolution and the solid fort confronting the powers of evil and tyranny.

We are confident that a people with the authority, wealth and arms will know how to confront these new imperialist conspiracies, as has previously been proven to the world when the largest terrorist power in the world tried to assault their sovereignty.

Foiling the hireling group by the popular masses and the revolutionary committees is the greatest proof that the armed people cannot be defeated, and insists, more than any previous time, on protecting the achievements of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. Whatever the aid of the cowardly Arab reactionaries to these terrorists might be, this will inevitably increase the alertness of our people and their ability to continue the challenge till the enemies become [word indistinct] defeated.

Brother leader, accept our respects and appreciation. May God guide you.

[Signed] Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario secretary general

Jallud, Iran's Velayati Affirm Fraternal Support

LD111944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Our country's minister of foreign affairs, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met with Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan leadership council, last night. According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting our country's minister of foreign affairs announced the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the brother country of Libya with regard to the conspiracies of imperialism. Referring to the common stand of the two countries in connection with the Middle East and North Africa and the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Velayati stressed the need for brotherly visits between the two countries.

In reply, expressing gratitude for Mr Velayati's visit and the repeated support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Libyan Jamahiriyah with regard to the recent conspiracies against this country, Maj Jallud said: Your visit stems from your heartfelt sympathy, and your presence here at this particular time has many meanings. Libya is proud of this action by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is very clear that the conspiracies and the insane acts of our common enemies, that is, imperialism and the reactionary forces, are signs of their despair and weakness.

In conclusion, Maj Jallud reiterated the unstinting support of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the conspiracies of imperialism and the war imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran by Saddam at the behest of imperialism.

Velayti Leaves 11 May

LD111443 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli at noon today at the end of a visit to the Jamahiriyah, made within the framework of cohesion in the revolutionary struggles in the Jamahirayah and Iran.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent at Tripoli airport, Dr Velayati reaffirmed the support and backing of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its people and government for the Libyan people and their revolution against imperialist and reactionary plots.

Dr Velayati pointed out that the talks and meetings he held in the Jamahiriyah were fruitful and useful, and centered on the coordination of the efforts between the two fraternal countries to confront the enemies of both the fraternal peoples. He said that just as we declared previously, we annouce that we stand by our brothers, the Libyans, and we are very confident that our brothers in the Jamahiriyah will achieve victory in their struggle against their enemies and aggressors.

Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made a statement to the press delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign minister, in which he underlined the importance of this visit, during which Dr Velayati stressed the strategic cohesion between the two Islamic revolutions in Libya and Iran. He added that the people of the Jamahiriyah are proud of this supportive stance by the people and the revolution in Iran, and that this total support is considered to be a driving force and backing to our joint struggle against Zionism, imperialism, and reaction, and that the people of the Jamahiriyah and their revolution, as the brother leader explained to the Iranian foreign minister, stand forcefully with the people of Iran and their Islamic revolution against imperialism and reaction.

Aviation, Manpower Treaty Signed With Pakistan

LD111236 Tripoli JANA in English 0913 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — In Tripoli, the aviation and manpower treaty between the Jamahiriyah and Pakistan was signed, at the same time as the minutes of the joint working Arab Libyan and Pakistani committees meetings for economic and social cooperation at the end of the 9th session.

The signatories were Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau and from the Pakistani side Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, the Pakistani minister for foreign affairs.

After the signing, Dr at-Turayki said that it is necessary to develop further the cooperative and working relations according to the agreements between the two countries. He emphasized the desire of the Arab Libyan people to develop and strengthen the relations with Pakistan, and said that these agreements and the results of the 9th session of the joint committee will lead to even better mutual cooperation and at a better level for their common benefit.

Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, the Pakistani minister for foreign affairs, replied expressing his satisfaction with the results and signing of the agreements. He stressed that Pakistan wishes to develop and (?improve) relations with the Jamahiriyah, pointing to the necessity of working towards their improvement which will be for mutual advantage. He conveyed the high regard of the Pakistani people and government for the role which the Jamahiriyah undertakes to consolidate relations between Islamic countries. He concluded that this will confirm the forward position of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in backing and strengthening the ties between the justice, peace and freedom loving relations.

JANA Cites AFP on 'Thousands' Detained in Sudan

LD112042 Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — In a report on the situation in Sudan, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE News Agency revealed that in the wake of the declaration of martial law in Sudan, thousands of people have been detained.

Quoting a Sudanese source, the agency added that arrest and search operations have increased considerably in Khartoum and

Port Sudan, northeast of the capital. These were carried out by armed military men. A wave of terror spread among citizens because of these measures, the agency added, stressing that the authorities of stooge Numayri have issues special instructions to restrict the use of telex services by foreign reporters. Barriers have also been placed on the roads and forensic search of passengers was carried out at Khartoum airport.

U.S. Official's Visit to Sudan, Egypt Decried

LD111032 Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 11, May 11, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY — the visit by the U.S. Assistant State Secretary Chester Crocker to Khartoum and Cairo comes as part of the imperialist reactionary alliance in the framework of conspiracies and plans implemented by hired agents in Sudan and Egypt.

Chester Crocker, expert in preparing conspiracies against progressive regimes in Africa found response from the hireling regime in Khartoum and the coward regime in Egypt. According to their official media systems, the 3 sides discussed the flaring situation in Sudan in the light of the Sudanese people's uprising against a fascist despotic regime which confiscated and repressed the freedom of the Sudanese people.

The agents of American in Egypt and Khartoum, in light of their humiliating links, have availed themselves [word indistinct] implement all low and despicable deeds and dirty conspiracies prepared by the politicans at the Pentagon.

The undoubtless thing is that the direct contact by Chester Crocker with hireling Numayri in Sudan and the treasonous regime in Egypt are deeply linked with dirty American actions aimed at fuelling tension in the region and provoking the progressive regime which repulses U.S. policies and thwarts U.S. treacherous plans.

[Word indistinct] best evidence to this is the collusion of hireling Numayri in the conspiracy against the Libyan Arab people whose political military and economic strength, masses' foundation and strong people's authority rendered him restless in fear of the spread of revolutionary committees.

Agent Numayri is not only a hireling for America. He is one of its mercenaries and terrorists who, because of their deep hatred, are trying to harm the Libyan Arab people. Such base conspiracies, carried out by him and by his like, by opening camps for the training of terrorists, their supplying with explosives and weapons, giving the fugitives lessons to carry out treacherous assassinations against our people are utterly useless. We shall destroy all dissidents and our people will remain steadfast in the face of all provocative attempts.

SUDAN

Libyan Dissidents on Tripoli Attack Casualities

JN131906 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Paris, 13 May (SUNA) — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has announced that eight martyrs from the salvation front forces carried out the daring attack against the Bab al-'Aziziyah camp and that between 100 to 120 soldiers and officers of Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorist guards were killed or wounded in this battle.

This was announced by the general command of the salvation forces in its communique No 2. Following is the text of the communique:

Military communique No 2 issued by the General Command of the salvation forces.

It was confirmed to the general command of the salvation forces that the number of the salvation forces commandos who were martyred during the daring attack against the Bab al-'Aziziyah camp where Al-Qadhdhafi was staying on Tuesday, 8 May amounted to eight martyrs, who left behind our forces' banner of struggle. While we cannot specify the number of martyrs from the Libyan forces who joined our commandoes inside Al-Qadhdhafi's camp, it has been confirmed to us that between 100 and 120 soldiers and officers of Al-Qadhdhafi's guards were killed or wounded in that glorious battle. Also, three buildings inside the Bab al-'Aziziyah camp were destroyed, including the building of the so-called Al-Qadhdhafi revolutionary committees.

While mourning the death of those heroic martyrs who sacrificed their blood and lives for Libya's pure soil, the front assures the patient, fighting Libyan people of its strong determination to continue the struggle against injustice and Al-Qadhdafi's tyranny until victory, God willing.

Claim Banghazi, Tripoli Explosions

JN131825 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Paris, 13 May (SUNA) — A group of Libyan commandos blew up the computer center at Al-Abraq Air Force Base, completely destroying the center. Another group blew up the main radar station in Banghazi on Wednesday as well as one of the main aerial dishes belonging to Al-Qadhdhafi's broadcasting station in Tripoli, causing the station to stop operation for several hours.

This was announced by the National Front for the Salvation of Libya. The general command of the Libyan salvation forces issued military communique No 3. The following is the text of the communique:

Military communique issued by the general command of the Libyan salvation forces.

While Al-Qadhdhafi believes he has eliminated the commandos of the Libyan salvation forces, our commandos are continuing their armed operations against the pillars and institutions of the criminal, terrorist Al-Qadhdhafi regime on the blessed, pure Libyan soil.

On Tuesday evening, 8 May, the salvation forces commandos set off several explosions in Tripoli. On the same evening, another group blew up the computer center at Al-Abraq Air Force Base, completely destroying the center and damaging several neighboring installations. On Wednesday morning, 9 May, another group of commandos blew up the main radar station in Banghazi. On the same day, our commandos blew up one of the main aerial dishes of Al-Qadhdhafi's broadcasting station in Tripoli, causing the so-called Voice of Greater Arab Homeland station to cease operation for several hours. Al-Qadhdhafi's authorities discovered several bombs planted by our commandos in several vital targets.

Numayri BBC Interview Stresses Threats to Sudan

JN131208 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 13 May (SUNA) — President Numayri has stressed that Sudan is facing a devastating war waged by Libya and Ethiopia, and instigated by the Soviet Union. This war is aimed at destroying the Sudan's achievements in the fields of development, national unity, and carrying out the laws of the Islamic Shari'a. The hostile forces have great financial capabilities in order to buy agents and to embark on propaganda campaigns.

In his statement to the BBC yesterday, President Numayri said that the conspiracies witnessed in the south were only a link in the chain of conspiracies threatening Sudan.

In his statement, President Numayri talked about the emergency laws and said they were aimed at speeding up decisions in cases which were pending and improving discipline.

President Numayri explained that regional government in the south is an advanced step toward more public participation in decisionmaking there. The regional government was established in response to the wishes of the people who have suffered from centralism. In this context the president pointed out that southern Sudan was the first region in Sudan to implement regional government. It implemented this type of government before any other region in Sudan.

President Numayri announced that there are 5 million unregistered refugees in Sudan. Sudan provides them with security and peace of mind. He said that there were also another 1 million registered refugees in the country. Speaking about the Sudanese-Egyptian cooperation in the military field and the joint defense treaty which governs this cooperation, President Numayri said that Sudan is a democratic state in which the trade unions and workers' organizations enjoy the freedom to express their opinions within the defined rulers and laws. He said that recent strikes in Sudan have been political ones and were outside such rules.

Concluding his statement to the BBC correspondent, Numayri asserted that Sudan belongs to neither the Western nor the Eastern blocs; that it endeavors to obtain economic and military aid from its friends; and that the Sudanese people are more capable [than others] to defend their national soil and do not want anyone to come and fight for them. The interview with the BBC dealt with the application of Islamic law in Sudan and the endeavors which the people have for a long time been exerting to apply this law.

Further on Interview

JN140955 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Khartoum May 14 (SUNA) — In his interview with the BBC, President Numayri described Joseph Adho the spokesman of the so-called Sudan Liberation Movement as a wicked man. Numayri added that Adho had been a former minister and escaped to the jungle because he had failed being elected to the Peoples Assembly. Numayri confirmed that there is no headquarters in Sudan for the National Front of Salvation of Libya. He said that we do not permit anybody to exercise any hostile act against any country.

TUNISIA

Tunisians Working in Libya Turned Back at Border

LD141235 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] TUNIS, 14 May (TAP) — TAP has learned that 50 Tunisians who work in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah have been turned back at the Tunisian-Libyan border in the past 2 days. These people reported that the Libyan authorities are about to return a number of Tunisians who work in Libya in the region of (Al Gharyan).

Government 'Strongly' Denies Libyan Charges

NC120740 Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 12 (AFP) — Tunisia strongly denied Friday new Libyan charges that its territory had been used by those involved in last Tuesday's commando attack on a Tripoli Army barracks where Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lives.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said Friday that "thanks to confessions and incontestible evidence," Libya was now "certain" the rebels had used neighbouring Tunisia as a base. Three "terrorists" had been caught last Sunday with arms, explosives, and a list of sabotage targets after crossing the border from Tunisia and three other armed men had entered from Tunisia on the day of the commando attack last Tuesday, the agency said. The Tunisian news agency quoted official Tunisian sources Friday as saying Tunisia had nothing to do with the commando attack and "has never and will never" be used as a base for attacks on neighbouring countries. Tunisia made an earlier denial of Libyan charges last Wednesday of Tunisian involvement.

ETHIOPIA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua

EA101216 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1900 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today disclosed that Socialist Ethiopia and Nicaragua signed an agreement in New York the day before yesterday [7 May] to establish diplomatic relations. The agreement was signed by Comrade Hamid Mohammed, Ethiopian permanent representative to the United Nations, on behalf of Ethiopia, and the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United Nations signed on behalf of Nicaragua.

Mengistu Asks European Leaders To Block Botha Visit

EA122128 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and current OAU chairman, has sent messages to the leaders of eight European countries expressing his deep concern and regret over the planned visit of South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha to these countries.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu sent the messages to the FRG chancellor, the French and Swiss presidents, and the prime ministers of Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, and Britain.

In his message our comrade revolutionary leader said the apartheid policy pursued by the Pieter Botha-led government, in addition to denying the fundamental democratic rights of the majority of the South African people, had (?exposed) them to lasting slavery and degrading living conditions. He said that Prime Minister Pieter Botha has publicly shown a criminal disregard for the equality and fundamental democratic rights of mankind by (?exposing) the country's African people to deplorable oppression and exploitation.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu pointed out that the object of Botha's visit to the eight European countries was to promote the shameful and detestable apartheid policy. He added that this policy has been regularly condemned by the OAU, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and other organizations. He added that racist South Africa has earned the hatred and condemnation of the world community by jailing thousands of freedom fighters, by [words indistinct] the blacks of the country, and by the cruel measures it employs to destroy any [word indistinct] movement for freedom.

In his message, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that Botha's arrogant efforts to prove South African military might; the aggression and threats on neighboring countries; the destruction of property and lives; the illegal occupation of Angolan territory and of Namibia; and the disregard of UN efforts for Namibian independence, show that his is a bandit regime.

Accordingly, he pointed out that the European countries' governments and freedom-loving peoples should in no way welcome him, and added that if Botha makes the visit, it will be a moral failure and will be seen as giving confirmation and [word indistinct] to his oppressive regime.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu added that the governments and peoples of these countries have a great responsibility in the international struggle against apartheid and in defending the legal rights of the South African peple. He pointed out that they have a leading role to play.

Concluding his message, Comrade Chairman Mengistu called on the leaders of these countries to cancel the invitation extended to Botha, and refrain from taking any action that may help the regime trample on the fundamental and inalienable rights of the majority peoples of South Africa.

KENYA

Reaction to USSR's Olympics Boycott Cited

EA101227 Nairobi the DAILY NATION in English
p 1, 10 May 84

[*THE DAILY NATION* reporter article: "Boycott Takes Sports Officials by Surprise"]

[Excerpt] Top Kenya sports administrations expressed surprise yesterday at the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from the Los Angeles Olympic Games later this year. First to react was the chairman of the Kenya Olympic Association, Sammy Mbogo Wa Kamau, who said he was surprised that the Soviets had boycotted the games. But in the same breath, Kamau said a national association had the right to choose which games to participate in.

The chairman of the Amateur Boxing Association of Kenya Maj Marsden Madoka, said: The decision was not in the spirit of the Olympic Games and I think the presence of the Russian boxers in the Olympics would have made the games more competitive, but it may lose some of its impact, particularly in the ring.

The Soviet Union recently won the King's Cup International Boxing Brown in Bangkok, Thailand.

Boycott Soviet 'Charade'

EA101225 Nairobi THE DAILY NATION in English
p 6 10 May 84

[Editorial: "Olympic Project a Soviet Charade"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's announcement that it would stay away from this years Olympic Games in Los Angeles was timed to cause maximum damage. It was made at the start of the Olympic torch relay. The 14,000 km relay began at the UN Plaza in New York on Tuesday.

The flimsy nature of the arguments advanced to explain the Soviet decision leaves little doubt that they are trying to pay back the United States for spearheading the 1980 boycott of Moscow Olympics. The boycott was in protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.

To anyone else except the octogenarians in the Kremlin, Los Angeles has been organizing the games in accordance with the Olympic Charter. That would explain the Soviet failure to be specific about how the United States has flouted the charter. All the Soviets have been able to do is accuse the U.S. authorities of condoning its so-called extremist organizations bent on making the lives of Soviet athletes unbearable. That argument may convince those advancing it, but certainly no one else. At least not anyone living outside the Soviet orbit.

It would be unfortunate if any East bloc countries by the Soviet excuses and stay away from the games, given the excellence of their athletes. It would be even more unfortunate if any country outside the Soviet Union stays away at the behest of the Soviets.

That is what would flout the Olympic Charter and its ideals.

The misfortune would be felt mainly by the athletes, many of whom have looked forward to winning a gold medal for years. And they have prepared for it too.

Any attempts at internationalizing the boycott on flimsy grounds could lead to the games being damaged irreparably. And no country that cares for its athletes and for the Olympic Charter should agreee to be a party to the Soviet charade.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu Announces Death of Shire Barre 10 May

EA112218 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Colonel Shire Muhammad Siad Barre, may God rest his soul in peace, a member of the Armed Forces, died of a heart attack in his house in Mogadishu yesterday.

Challe Col Shire Muhammad Siad Barre was a patriot, and a gallant and able officer. The late Shire was born in 1949 in Bardere, Gedo region and reached secondary school level in Somalia. He finished studies in the General 'Abd an-Nasir secondary school in Mogadishu in 1971 and immediately joined the forces. Challe Shire attended various military courses at military acedemies in Iraq, Italy and other places. The late Shire won a bravery medal and was promoted for his exemplary work in the 1981 war. He is remembered for his bravery and good leadership during the war.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali Samatur, first vice president and defense minister, speaking on behalf of the Somali Armed Forces and on his own behalf, sent a condolence message to President of the Somali Democratic Republic, Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, relatives and friends of the deceased, for his sad death. He also prayed for the deceased's soul to rest in heaven.

President Attends Son's Funeral

EA112224 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1700 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Somali President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, this afternoon attended the funeral of his son, Colonel Shire Muhammad Siad Barre, who died in Mogadishu yesterday.

Officials Attend Funeral

EA112219 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1400 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The late Shire Barre was buried at the General Daud Cemetery at (Wardigley) this afternoon at 1315.

Among those present at the funeral were Somali President Challe Siad; the two vice presidents, Challe Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali Samatur and Challe Major General Husayn Kulmiye Afrah; Challe Brigadier General Ahmad Sulayman Abdullah, Somali minister for national planning; other members of the SRSP Central Committee; the bureau chairman; members of the Council of Ministers and of the Peoples National Assembly; heads of the Somali Armed Forces; religious leaders; and many other people.

Former Barre Soldiers Defect to DFSS Opposition Force

EA011226 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali
to Somalia 1800 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] On 4 April 1984, 42 former soldiers of dictator General Mohamed Siad Barre defected to the 15th Gorod Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces, complete with their arms, in the Balambal area, which is one of the areas liberated from the fascist regime of Mogadishu. The armed soldiers have now joined the opposition forces, complete with their arms, in the Balambal area, which is one of the areas liberated from the fascist regime of Mogadishu. The armed soldiers have now joined the opposition forces are playing their part in hastening the fall of the dictatorial regime of General Mohamed Siad Barre.

A spokesman for the defecting soldiers said that they could not tolerate the oppression of the terrorist regime led by Mohamed Siad Barre against the Somali people.

Former Ambassador Joins

EA112126 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali
to Somalia 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Abdurahman Ahmad Ali, known as Abdurahman (Tur), who was the ambassador of General Muhammad Siad Barre's regime in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, said in the British capital, London, that he has joined the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali Opposition Forces.

Abdurahman (Tur), who served the Somali Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 16 years, said during that period he served as an ambassador in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Abdurahman (Tur), interviewed by the BBC last Wednesday, said that Somalia is passing through a heart-breaking period in which the country's political, economic, and security sectors have completely collapsed. Answering a question on the scandals that took place in the foreign missions of the Barre Government, Abdurahman (Tur) said the missions have now been turned over to work on matters unrelated to diplomatic affairs or their responsibility to the Somali community, such as blackmarketing and terrorism whereby murder squads are sent to terrorize the Somali people opposed to the Barre regime and who live in many parts of the world. These scandals involving the foreign missions of Barre's regime are many. The most recent of them, said Abdurahman (Tur) was in Abu Dhabi and India. Abdurahman (Tur) said that 16 passports were sold to foreigners later arrested by the UAE authorities. In India, Somali students were terrorized and several students were arrested. Abdurahman (Tur) said that thousands of Somali students, workers, and intellectuals have fled the country from the continuous savage oppression unleashed on them by General Barre's terrorist regime.

More Defections Reported

EA101232 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Reports from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces say that number of officials, soldiers and civilians have defected to the DFSS. The defecting Somalis, 19 in all, joined the DFSS at the end of last week.

The defectors to the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces, who are now waging an armed struggle against the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre, include Lieutenant Khalif Abd ar-Rahman Yusuf, who was a member of the 44th Brigade of 8th Division of the Somali forces still loyal to the regime of Mohamed Siad Barre. Lt Khalif Abd ar-Rahman Yusuf was the commander of the 153d Platoon of the troops still loyal to General Barre.

The defectors to the 9th General Aynanshe division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces also include Sergeant Dahir Ali Gedi from the 47th Brigade, 92d Company of the forces still loyal to regime of murderer Mohammed Siad Barre. Also among the defectors is a well-known Somali business man, Mahmud Ali Muhammad.

All the defectors have joined the armed struggle. They said they could not tolerate the massacre, imprisonment, oppression, and destruction of the Somali community by a minority, and had therefore decided to join the armed struggle of the Somali opposition forces.

Briefs

OUTGOING SWISS AMBASSADOR — President Siad Barre today received the outgoing Swiss ambassador, Daniel Gagnebin, who is based in Cairo. [Summary] [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali NB25 1700 GMT 8 May 84 EA]

TANZANIA

East African Delegations Arrive for Summit

EA122110 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Arusha: Cabinet ministers and senior government officials from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda have been arriving in Arusha today to finalize preparations for a summit meeting of the three countries heads of state scheduled for next Monday.

Presidents Nyerere, Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, and Milton Obote of Uganda are expected to sign a final agreement on the division of assets and liabilities of the defunct East African Community.

The agreement is a result of intensive consultations between the World Bank appointed mediator, Dr Victor Umbricht, and the three governments since 1977, when the community broke up.

An advance party of the Tanzania delegation to the meeting includes the minister for finance, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya; the minister for justice and attorney-general, Ndugu Joseph Warioba; and the minister of state in the President's Office for International Cooperation, Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi.

Cadre Exchange Pact Signed With USSR

EA111524 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The Soviet Communist Party and Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] have signed an agreement under which the two parties will train and exchange delegations of party cadres in the next 2 years. The agreement was signed today at the CCM subheadquarters in Dar es Salaam by the Soviet ambassador to Tanzania, Ndugu Yuriy Yukalov, and the assistant principal secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs of the National Executive Secretariat, ambassador (Philemon Muro).

Under the agreement, CCM will send a three-man delegation to the Soviet Union in the first half of this year to study the work of the Soviet Communist Party in the management of the economy. Another three-man delegation will visit the Soviet Union in the second half of next year to study the management of local government, while two other groups each comprising five CCM cadres will go for 6 months studies on party ideology.

On the other hand, the Soviet Communist Party will bring a three-man delegation to study the organizational and ideological work of the party next year.

The Communist Party will also send lecturers, who will lecture on party construction and internal and external policy of the CPSU. This is the third agreement signed between the two parties. The first one was signed in 1979.

CAMEROON

Finance Minister Confirms Trials Underway

AB111240 Paris AFP in French 1209 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 11 May (AFP) — Etienne Ntsama, Cameroonian finance minister, stated in Tunis on Friday that the trial of presidential guard members who took part on 6 and 7 April in the abortive coup attempt against President Paul Biya's regime, was in progress in Yaounde. Mr Ntsama declined to confirm that executions had taken place. He specified that "the cases being investigated now were those of the civilians who were behind the Army mutineers."

Minister Remarks on Trials

AB111649 Paris AFP in French 1301 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] During a press conference held outside the annual meeting in Tunis of the African Development Bank (ADB), Mr Ntsama said that former President Ahmadou Ahidjo "may not be directly responsible for the coup but he was indirectly responsible because of his declarations and instigations."

"We know that France does not extradite people for political reasons, so we will not waste our time asking for his extradition," he added answering a question.

Mr Ntsama also affirmed, as a result of his recent contacts with some banking institutions in the West, that Cameroon is "perfectly credible" and the failure of the coup attempt "should completely reassure international economic and financial circles."

"For those who know it, Cameroon is an interesting partner," he added, after giving some economic development facts.

The gross growth rate in 1983 was 6 percent. The external debt rate is 10 percent and the per capita income has reached $900, he said. The balance of payments is right, he continued. The external assets amount to 60 billion cfa francs (1 cfa france — 0.2. French francs). Cameroon is self-sufficient in food, despite the drought, as well as in oil supply (production of 6 million tons, 1.5 million of which is refined in the country; the rest is exported).

Mr Ntsama announced that Cameroon is presently preparing documents with a view to launching a new investment program. He said that his country was waiting for the international markets to be more promising before exploiting its deposits of natural gas (100 billion cubic meters according to the technip method), of iron (Krupp and Japanese companies), of Bauxite (Pechiney and Alcan).

In Tunis, the Cameroonian minister continued with his negotiations for an ADB loan to his country to build the Cameroonian sector of the trans-African road from Lagos to Monbassa, and a road toward the continental part of Equatorial Guinea, and to carry out work on the railroad, and for the extension of Douala Harbor.

Denies 35 Executed

LD131428 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] In Yaounde, discretion remains in force over the third series of trials reported to have begun on Friday morning in the Cameroon capital, according to non-official sources. In the first trial, 35 people are reported to have been sentenced to death. On Friday, a press agency published a statement by Cameroonian Finance Minister Ntsama, who was in Tunis, which appeared to confirm these 35 executions. On a stopover in Paris, Mr Ntsama wanted to deny that he made such comments. Etienne Ntsama spoke to Anne Toulouse:

[Begin recording] [Ntsama] I formally dispute having made this statement. The judicial inquiry is taking place, and the government will make known its results (?at the stage of my news), but during my journey, I know that the inquiry is continuing.

[Toulouse] The number of 1,000 people arrested and to be heard shortly by the courts has been mentioned.

[Ntsama] It is certain that if the plot was on a large scale, people can be questioned to shed light on the affair, and to recreate the scene of the preparations for an attempted coup, which mobilized a large force such as this.

[Toulouse] In any case, you dispute the fact that there were 35 executions?

[Ntsama] I formally dispute the number of 35 executions.

[Toulouse] You dispute that there were executions, or the fact that there were 35 of them?

[Ntsama] I dispute the figure. [end recording]

That was the finance minister. Amnesty International is concerned about the secrecy surrounding the trials taking place in Cameroon. In a communique published this morning, the humanitarian organization fears that other secret executions may have taken place, aimed at military figures and at civilians. Amnesty International also fears the accused may have had no lawyer to defend them.

CHAD

Foreign Ministry Rejects Al-Qadhdhafi Statement

NC121911 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Ndjamena, May 12 (AFP) — The Chadian Foreign Ministry today implicitly rejected a new statement by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he said he was ready to withdraw his troops from Chad "immediately". In a statement here, the ministry called for vigilance "by the Chadian people and friends of Chad, in order not to be fooled into accepting a half-baked solution to the Chadian-Libyan dispute".

The ministry said that because of the "growing hostility of opinion in the face of the Tripoli regime's adventurist and expansionist policy", Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was "once again trying to fool public opinion with dilatory lies."

The statement recalled that the Libyan leader had said on May 1 that he was prepared to withdraw his troops so that France would have no excuse for maintaining a military presence in the country.

The next day, it recalled, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi went back on that position, saying he would only withdraw his troops if France did so.

The statement also said that in November 1981 Libya had announced its withdrawal (after intervening to help then-President Goukouni Oueddei against the rebellion led by Hissein Habre, now president).

That, however, it said, did not stop him coming back in force in July 1983 (in support of Mr Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT].

The Habre government statement said that since the second Libyan intervention, the northern town of Faya Largeau had been turned into a Libyan fort, and that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had not changed his position at all.

(In Paris today, GUNT representative Abderahman Moussa [spelling as received] again accused the French Government of wanting to partition Chad, and reaffirmed the GUNT's readiness to negotiate.

(The GUNT was ready to negotiate with representatives of Hissein Habre without conditions and under Organisation of African Unity (OAU) auspices," he said.

(In an allusion to the apparent rejection of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's latest statement, Mr Moussa said declarations from Ndjamena and Mr Habre's spokesman in Paris were "not of a nature" to help the opening of such negotiations.)

Libya Favorite Target of 'Western Imperialism'

AB111025 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 10 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] As could be expected following the recent crisis between Great Britain and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, some evil foreign terrorists in the pay of Western imperialism, and reactionary African leaders, last Tuesday launched an attack against Libya. In fact, a 15-man suicide commando group armed with rockets and grenade launchers made an attempt on Tuesday morning to take some people hostage in a building not far from the barracks where Colonel al-Qadhdhafi lives.

The vigorous and immediate reaction of the vigilant Libyan security forces quickly put an end to the suicidal action of the terrorist group, whose members were all killed. Sudanese passports and other documents were found on the dead terrorists. This confirms Libya's official accusation that the commandos had been equipped, financed, and armed by Sudan and Great Britain. Another thing that confirms Great Britain's involvement in the abortive attempt was the statement by a London-based organization of stateless persons claiming responsibility for the unfortunate operation. It should also be noted that the creators of the abortive hostage-taking operation passed through Tunisian territory according to claims made in the Libyan capital.

What happened last Tuesday in Tripoli didi not astonish observers. In fact, because of its revolutionary policy, the magnificent socioeconomic projects realized for the benefit of the brotherly people of Libya under the wise leadership of our brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and in light of the 1 September Revolution and Libya's solidaristic, courageous, and internationalist policy, the country cannot fail to be the favorite target of Western imperialism. The recent provocative shots fired on the Libyan People's Bureau in London also prove this fact.

In Africa itself, revolutionary Libya constitutes a bugbear for French and American imperialism. Everyone knows that in Chad, Yankee imperialism — supported by the puppet group in Ndjamena and some reactionary African states — is trying to destabilize Libya and the progressive African states.

The Chadian patriots, who are engaged in an armed struggle against the terrorist and bloodthirsty Ndjamena administration in the pay of French and American imperialism, are in complete solidarity with their Libyan brothers, facing the criminal activities of the common enemy. The militant and active solidarity between the revolutionary Libyan and Chadian forces is a considerable asset in the common struggle against reactionary forces on the continent.

Goukouni Oueddei Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

AB111948 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] has sent a message of support to the leader of the Libyan revolution and the Al-Fatih Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In the message he sent on behalf of the Chadian people, the government and on his own behalf, the comrade head of state denounced imperialism and terrorism.

RWANDA

Party Official Leaves for Bucharest 10 May

EA111523 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Rwandan ruling party secretary general, Militant Bonaventure Habymana, left Kigali yesterday evening for Bucharest for a friendly 1-week visit to Romania at the invitation of the Romanian Socialist Party [as heard].

GHANA

EEC Grants Emergency Aid for Drought

AB121320 Accra Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The European Economic Community has granted Ghana an emergency aid of 2 million European Currency Units — this is about 48 million cedis — for drought victims. In a message to the Provisional National Defense Council chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, a member of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr Edgar Pisani, said arrangements for implementing the aid would be worked out between the Ghana Government and the European Commission delegate in Ghana. The aid is free. Mr Pisani visited Ghana at the invitation of the government last November.

Fee Set for Foreign Exchange Transactions

AB110747 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The government has decided that, with immediate effect, a processing fee of 5 percent should be paid to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning treasury on the value of certain foreign exchange transactions. This follows the abolition of foreign exchange tax and foreign travel tax.

An official statement said airline tickets, purchases, and repurchases of foreign exchange for travel, transfers for medical expenses, private transfers for educational fees, (?staffings), and private unrequested transfers, dues, and subcriptions will attract tax. The staement advised all travelers to foreign countries, including public officers on government delegations, that the purchase of foreign currency at the banks for these purposes will be allowed only upon production of the treasury receipt covering payment of the processing fee. It asked companies that sell airline tickets to demand the receipt before issuing tickets.

GUINEA

Railway Workers Strike Reported From Boke

AB121144 Conkary Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT
11 May 84

[Text] Workers of the Boke Railways, a part of the big bauxite producing company called OFAB-CDG, went on strike last Saturday. our reporter it Boke, Mamadou Sisavane, reports.

[Begin Sisavane recording] It had nothing in common with a strike. What happened exactly? Workers of the railway section of this company spontaneously stopped work on Sunday from 1200 to 1300 and 1725 to 1815. The reasons for this action? The workers were asking for an improvement in working conditions and a change of their administrative and technical supervisors, who are accused of weakness and discrimination. This unilateral action affected the rail transportation of bauxite from the mine to the port.

Informed of the events, the provincial and regional authorities visited the area on 7 and 8 May. During the democratic discussions between the authorities and the workers, it was revealed that the workers' demands had not been approved by the local union, which had not been informed beforehand. It therefore came to light that most of the railway workers did not support the claims.

Captain Senainon Thaine, governor general of the Boke Province, condemned this action by the workers of the OFAB-CDG which [words indistinct]. He stated that the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN], whose objectives conform to the aspirations of the working masses, is working for the happiness and progress of the people. To the CMRN, the Guineans of the Second Republic need to be informed in order to make them more confident, and therefore participate in the effort to develop our country, Capt Senainon Thiane said. The role of the unions and management in coordinating activities and human relations was stressed by the Boke provincial governor general, who emphasized worker-union-management relations. He pointed out that freedoms, or freedom of speech, does not mean disorder. It entails respect for authority, discipline, hard work, and national unity.

The governor of the Boke Administrative Region, Nimoin Diakite, and the commander of the Fifth Military Zone, Captain Camara, were present at the meeting. [end recording]

NIGER

Agreement With Nigeria on Border Crossing Pending

AB131417 Paris AFP in English 1358 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Niamey, May 13 (AFP) — Niger is to sign an agreement with its neighbor, Nigeria, in the next few weeks covering the movement of people between the two countries, a government source said here in the wake of the expulsion of thousands of Niger citizens from Nigeria.

According to official figures, some 4,150 expelled people were registered by Niger border police between January 1 and May 9 this year, but the real number, including those not recorded 20,000.

Yet the government source noted that both countries have signed the convention on the free movement of people and goods as members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The new agreement, which was one of the principal subjects discussed by Niger president Seyni Kountche on a visit to Lagos at the beginning of April, is expected to ease the difficulties of people living on both sides of the border, who frequently have close family ties.

The accord, which was drawn up by the Niger authorities and is currently being studied in Lagos, also specifies a delay in [words indistinct] to take steps to [word indistinct] the deportees.

It is acknowledged here that the current situation is not nearly as bad as that of the mass expulsion of foreigners by Nigeria last year, when more than 150,000 people were ordered back to Niger, but it still causes serious problems to the Niamey Government.

In order not to leave a large number of jobless people in the border areas, local authorities have orders to organize their return to their home villages. This implies setting up a costly and burdensome transport system.

There is also the problem of recovering the property of those who were expelled too quickly to be able to bring their belongings with them.

While assets blocked by Nigerian banks are often recuperated without too much difficulty, it is more difficulty with material goods left with individual Nigerians, and the new agreement is expected to include a clause relating to this question.

Authorities here are also trying to discourage their citizens from going to "seek their fortune" in Nigeria. Unless they have a permanent job or business, they are advised not to cross the border.

Other means of keeping people at home during the dry season include employment on community and public works projects, but officials here are not very convinced that they will succeed.

"The tradition of migration in our region is too old and deep-rooted to dissuade people from looking for work over the border, whatever the risks", the government source said.

President's Talks, Activities in Beijing Reported

AB131240 Niamey Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] During his official visit to the PRC, President Seyni Kountche yesterday met Mr Deng Xiaoping at the Great People's Palace in Beijing. During their talks, Presidents Seyni Kountche and Deng Xiaoping discussed Sino-Niger cooperation, and the means necessary to consolidate and strengthen this cooperation. The current world situation was also reviewed by the two figures.

At the end of these discussions, President Kountche and the delegation accompanying him visited the justice palace in the northwestern suburb of Beijing, which is regarded as having one of the most famous parks in Beijing. After this, the presidential delegation went to the southeast suburb of Beijing to visit [name indistinct], a people's commune that covers an area of 36 square km. The officer in charge of this district, who welcomed President Kountche, explained that the role assigned to this area is to supply the city of Beijing with agricultural and dairy products.

After this visit, head of state Gen Seyni Kountche, went to the Niger Embassy in Beijing for talks with the African ambassadors accredited to the Chinese capital.

In a short speech, the dean of the African diplomatic corps accredited to Beijing, the Moroccan ambassador, stressed that President Seyni Kountche's visit is a source of great joy to them. Lauding the qualities of President Seyni Kountche, the Moroccan ambassador spoke about the relentless efforts by the head of state to keep our continent out of international rivalry, for the reconciliation of African countries, the peaceful resolution of inter-African disputes, and also to preserve the (?respect) of the spirit of African unity, which is the aspiration of African peoples. The dean of the diplomatic corps also spoke about the economic development being undertaken by the Niger people [words indistinct].

Replying to this speech, Head of State Gen Kountche recalled that Niger's policy has not changed. It is based on friendship, fraternity, and solidarity. Talking about conflicts of the world's hot spots, the head of state said that Niger has done its best to contribute to the search for just and peaceful solutions.

In his capacity as current chairman of the CILSS [Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel], President Kountche told the African diplomats posted in Beijing that in addition to the struggle against underdevelopment being waged by our continent, there is another one being waged by a certain number of countries — namely, the fight against drought, a topic that President Kountche has already discussed with the Chinese authorities.

After this meeting, President Kountche offered a dinner in honor of President Deng Xiaoping at the Beijing People's Palace.

We must recall that on Friday afternoon President Kountche visited the Sixth Armored Division of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in the outskirts of Beijing. President Kountche and his delegation witnessed a demonstration of the (?armored division). On Friday evening, the presidential delegation attended an arts show organized by the Beijing authorities.

Meets With Zhao Ziyang

AB112147 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT
11 May 84

[Excerpt] Today is the second day of President Seyni Kountche's official visit to the PRC, and was marked by a ceremony at the monument of the heroes of the people, where he laid a wreath. After this, President Seyni Kountche held a 2-hour talk with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang. The talk centered on cooperation between China and Niger as well as international issues.

At the bilateral level, the Chinese premier congratulated President Kountche on Niger's achievements in agriculture. He also said he is happy that our country is able to meet its food needs.

The head of state, for his part, expressed his total satisfaction with the positive results in matters of bilateral cooperation. The talks, which took place at the People's Assembly Palace in Beijing, were followed by a working session between Niger and Chinese delegations.

President Seyni Kountche this afternoon paid a series of visits to socioeconomic projects.

Kountche Activities in PRC

For XINHUA coverage of the visit by President Seyni Kountche to the PRC, including his meetings with President Li Xiannian, Premier Zhao Ziyang, and Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC Deng Xiaoping, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 11 May China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

NIGERIA

Senegalese Envoy Denies Naira in Diplomatic Pouch

AB110920 Lagos NAN in English 0908 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 10 (NAN) -- The Senegalese ambassador to Nigeria, Saloum Kainde, today in Lagos denied a national daily's report that an abandoned diplomatic bag belonging to the Senegalese External Affairs Ministry contained some old naira notes.

The ambassador, who denied the report at a news conference at the Senegalese Embassy, said that the "suspected" diplomatic bag should be opened in public. According to him, "this is the best way to prove beyond any doubt the integrity of the Republic of Senegal and its representatives that this officially sealed bag contains only diplomatic material."

Mr Kainde said that diplomatic bags were sent unaccompanied from Dakar to Lagos through commercial airlines and that they were unloaded with the passengers' luggage and collected by a company handling the embassy's mails. "Certainly it is while the incriminated bag was turning round on the conveyer belt that a customs officer declared it abandoned and suspected it to contain old notes," he said.

The ambassador, who claimed that he had not seen the "suspected diplomatic bag" at the time of the news conference, said that when he contacted customs officials after reading the report, "they denied making such claims to the newspaper."

Banks To Extend Hours 'Until Further Notice'

AB110900 Lagos NAN in English 0835 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 10 (NAN) — All banks are to remain open to the public till 3 p.m. daily until further notice, the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) learnt in Lagos today.

The Central Bank director of banking supervision, Samuel Abe, gave the new directive in a circular sent to all commercial banks today. The move is to ease the current congestion in the banks.

The CBN [Central Bank of Nigeria] director of domestic operations, Chief Cletus Nwagu, also told NAN that the new banking hours would continue until the long queues at the banks thinned down.

Before today's directive, banks had always been opened to members of the public from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., from Tuesdays to Fridays. Mondays, banks operate from 8. a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chief Nwagu described as false the claim that some banks did not have enough money to conduct their normal transactions and to pay those who deposited old notes with them. "All the banks collect money everyday and we even call them up to remind them that their allocation is awaiting collection," the director of domestic operations said. He said that it would be unreasonable to pump too much money into circulation just as it would be bad to have too little, adding that the flow of money was being effectively monitored.

He expressed disappointment at the "inhuman" attitude of some banks toward customers who deposited old notes with them. Chief Nwagu said that the banks should use the opportunity to gain more customers by encouraging the depositors to open accounts with them.

A NAN correspondent who went round the banks today reported that members of the public were still subjected to lots of hardship as the queues got longer and people unattended to. Many customers who went to cash or deposit their cheques were not allowed into the banks.

At Wema Bank on Broad Street, policemen and soldiers used whips to control the crowd. At First Bank on Victoria Island, customers were locked out of the bank's premises. Only very few banks attended to their customers while many claimed that they did not have enough money.

Buhari Congratulates USSR's Chernenko on Election

AB120651 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Nigeria plans to explore further areas of cooperation between her and the Soviet Union. This was contained in the head of state's congratulatory message to Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko on his election as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. General Buhari expressed delight at the cordial relations between Nigeria and the Soviet Union and Pledged to do everything possible to maintain these relations.

The head of state wished the Soviet leader good health, happiness and success in his annual task of promoting international peace and security, and in the fight for the eradication of apartheid, and other forms of colonialism in Southern Africa.

SENEGAL

Details on PAIGC Expulsions Reported

AB111732 Dakar PANA in English 1655 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Bissau, 11 May (ANG/PANA) — Three members of the Central Committee of Guinea-Bissau's ruling party, the PAIGC, have been expelled from the party for factional and anti-party activities.

The expulsions were decided at a Central Committee meeting held in Bissau yesterday under the chairmanship of the party's general secretary, President Joao Bernardo Vieira.

A communique issued after the meeting announced that those expelled are Joseph Turpin, minister for natural resources; and a candidate member of the PAIGC Political Bureau, Jose Cruz Pinto, minister of the interior; and Braima Camara, director of the country's civil aviation.

A candidate member of the central committee, Teodora Inacio Gomes, assistant general secretary of the PAIGC women's organization, was suspended from membership for a year.

The minister of education, Jose Avito da Silva, who did not hold any leadership position in PAIGC, was also suspended from party membership for a year.

The Central Committee decided to refer a sixth case, that of Nicandro Barreto, the country's attorney general, to its next meeting. Mr Barreto is out of the country at the moment, and could not therefore defend himself against the charges of factional behavior. He will be forbidden from taking part in PAIGC activities until the Central Committee has considered his case.

The party members who have been disciplined were said to be implicated in the factional activity of Victor Saude Maria, the former prime minister.

Accused of plotting against President Vieira, Saude Maria was sacked from his government post, and from the position he held as deputy chairman of the Council of the Revolution on 10 March. He was placed under arrest, but managed to escape and sought political asylum at the Portuguese Embassy.

The Political Bureau of the party considered the activity of Saude Maria's associates, and informed the Central Committee that it considered that they have failed seriously to comply with their duties as party members.

The Central Committee listened to the defence of the five who were present in Bissau before deciding on its disciplinary measures.

These decisions, concludes the Central Committee communique, seek to put an end to factional activities inside the party.

Gabonese Military Delegation's Activities Reported

AB131020 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A Gabonese military delegation, led by the inspector general of the Gabonese security forces, has been on a visit to Dakar since Monday. Its mission falls within the framework of cooperation between Gabon and Senegal.

During its visit the Gabonese military delegation has met with General Idrissa Fall, the Army chief of general staff, and has also held a working session in the area of military cooperation between the two countries before visiting the [words indistinct] school.

SIERRA LEONE

New Sierra Leone Cabinet Announced

AB111937 Paris AFP in French 1650 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Freetown, 11 May (AFP) — Here is the composition of the new government, following the reshuffle made this week by President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone.

President of the Republic and minister of Defense — Siaka Stevens
First Vice President — S.I. Koroma
Second Vice President — F.M. Minah
Minister of Finance — Salia Jusu-Sheriff
Minister of Justice — Abubakar Kamara
Minister of Foreign Affairs — Abdulai Conteh
Minister of Development and Economic Planning — Dr Sheka Kanu
Minister of Agriculture an Forestry — Dr Abass Bundu
Minister of Trade and Industry — S.B. (Kawusu) Conteh
Minister of Transport and Communications — Joe Jackson
Minister of Education — Ernest R. Ndomahina
Minister of Health — Fasulicku Tamba
Minister of Public Works — Sheku Sesay
Minister of Information and Broadcasting — Edward Kargbo
Minister of Mines — Hassan G. Kanu
Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs — I.M. Fofanah
Minister of Lands, Housing and Country Planning — Ibrahim Kamara
Minister of Labor — S.B. Mara
Minister of Social Welfare and Rural Development — Sanie Sesay
Minister of Energy and Power — A.G. Sembu-Fornah
Minister of Interior — S.S. Banya

Parliamentary President — Tom Smith
Resident Minister of the Eastern Province — B.S. Sassaquoi
Resident Minister of the Southern Province — Basiru Kamara
Resident Minister of the Northern Province — Abdul Karim Koroma

Secretaries of State

Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces — Major General J.S. Momoh
Commander of Police — P.M. Johnson
President's Office — Harry T.T.. Williams, Philipson Kamara, Tamba Juana
Food Affairs — Agnes Labour
First Vice President's Office — El Hadj Chernor Maju
Second Vice President's Office — Kamara Sylvanus
Finance — S.E. Gbomor
Foreign Affairs — Augustine Stevens
Education — Abubakar Kamara
Mines — J.M. Kamanda
Labor — Micheal Abdulai

Health — Patrick Kamara

Special Parliamentary Assistants for
Development and Planning — Shamsa Mustapha
Agriculture and Forestry — Ibrahim Sorie and Mohamed S. Kargbo
Trade and Industry — I.K. Foday
Transport and Communications — El Hadj Bun Mansaray
Education — Emmanuel Grant
Public Works — A.E. Sesay
Tourism and Cultural Affairs — Mrs Amy Kallon
[Title indistinct] — (Simeon) Decker

UPPER VOLTA

Guinea's Traore Interviewed on Good-will Mission

AB110944 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Diara Traore, Guinean prime minister, made a short visit lasting a few hours to Ouagadougou. Colonel Traore was accompanied by Facine Toure, Guinean foreign minister. The Guinean delegation was welcomed at the airport by Comrade Blaise Compaore, delegate minister of state to the presidency, who was accompanied by Arba Diallo, foreign minister, and many members of the National Council of the Revolution, as well as a large number of Guineans living in Upper Volta.

After his talks with the Upper Voltan authorities, especially with President Thomas Sankara, Col Traore returned to Conakry late yesterday afternoon. Shortly before his departure, Col Traore was interviewed by the press. He first explained the purpose of his visit to Upper Volta:

[Begin recording] [Traore] I have just conferred with President Sankara and the members of the government whom we had the honor of meeting on behalf of our president and the Military Committee for National Redress. The talks that we have just held with the Upper Voltan Government, especially with President Sankara, took place in a truly cordial atmosphere of brotherhood. Our visit here is part of a goodwill mission: We have come to Upper Volta, a brotherly and friendly country, to brief the Upper Voltan president on the reason why the Army assumed power.

Frankly, we are happy with the outcome of these talks, during which President Sankara, myself, and my delegation examined bilateral problems, African, and world matters briefly.

As you may know, our views converged on all the problems examined. We insisted especially on the need to strengthen relations between our two peoples, and above all, to develop the fruitful cooperation existing between the Upper Voltan and Guinean peoples. We are leaving Upper Volta fully satisfied with these talks. Meanwhile we can already tell you that we will soon come to Upper Volta again for a longer visit, during which we will hold lengthier and more detailed discussions. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, allow us to dwell upon this point: We heard you were scheduled to stay here 2 days. Why are you returning so quickly?

[Traore] Well, if you were told that our stay was scheduled to last 2 days, it was a mistake. Indeed we were expected to stay at least 1 day. But you must understand that the events we face are serious enough to warrant a quick return home to embark on another important mission. We will then leave Conakry on Saturday for another country. This is why we had to cut short our visit to Upper Volta, a country which we like so much.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, The SDAR continues to pose a problem that divides Africa into moderate and progressive countries. What is Guinea's position on this issue?

[Traore] It is really a pity that Africa should be divided in moderate and progressive countries, because African countries should always walk hand in hand, in an atmosphere of brotherhood, that would constitute our strength.

We Guineans strongly condemn such divisions that only weaken us in our fight against evil forces. The SDAR constitutes a problem we consider to be very important. But this problem could be solved if African countries would join hands in a show of understanding for African problems.

We Guineans do not have a particular position. We stand for principles. We stand for the strict implementation of the resolutions that African countries deliberately adopt at OAU sessions, especially those adopted at the organization's summits of heads of state. We believe that Article 34 of the resolution adopted at the 19th OAU Summit contains arrangements for the Polisario, calling for efforts to get the Front and Morocco to sit at a negotiation table, and to promote conditions for the ceasefire. This was scheduled to have taken place before December 1983. The arrangements also call for the holding of a UN- and OAU-sponsored referendum. We consider these recommendations to be relevant. So, I do not understand the wisdom in the division among brotherly countries of the same continent, in terms of moderate and progressive, while these countries have the same difficulties to cope with. That is our stand on the Polisario Front issue.

[Second unidentified reporter] In view of what you have just said, there are certainly some people who oppose these decisions. You know who opposes the implementation of these decisions. In addition, the OAU was created on the basis of right to self-determination for all people. In view of this, do you think that the Polisario, as a people, cannot enjoy the right to self-determination?

[Traore] Well, I am just coming from Morocco and Algeria with my delegation. We listened to the two sides. When we take a hard look at the Polisario problem and the SDAR, and realize that, as indicated in its name — Saharan Democratic Arab Republic — it is an Arab problem. We therefore think it is an Arab problem that the Arab League must step in to solve. So, I can assure you that the problem of the Polisario Front is being solved. In the near future, the OAU will be through with this problem. [end recording]

ANGOLA

17 Britons Held by UNITA Released to Leahy

MB131236 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1234 GMT 13 May 84

[By Ray Faure]

[Text] Jamba (South-Eastern Angola), May 13, SAPA — The Angolan UNITA resistance movement last night released 17 British hostages captured in a raid on the nothern Angolan mining town of Cafunfo on February 23.

The release followed talks at UNITA's operational headquarters at Jamba in southern Angola yesterday afternoon between the UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, and the British deputy under-secretary for African and Middle East affairs, Sir John Leahy — the highest ranking British Government official to ever visit a UNITA base.

The hostages, who were force-marched for more than 500 km through the bush, and then transported the remainder of the way to Jamba — about 700 km — in trucks after their capture by UNITA forces during a 50-minute battle with MPLA forces, were released into Sir John's custody last night and flown to South Africa on a chartered aircraft.

They are due to arrive at Jan Smuts International Airport late this afternoon, and will return to Britain tomorrow night.

Sir John conferred with the UNITA leader for about three hours before the hostages, which include a woman, were finally freed.

Dr Savimbi told newsmen afterwards that the talks had concerned "problems about our part of the continent," but would not divulge the nature of the problems. He mentioned, however, that he had explained the military situation in southern Angola and UNITA's objectives to the British envoy.

Sir John also declined to give any details about the talks, but disclosed that a wide range of subjects had been discussed. He added that although the two men had found that their "perspectives on some subjects were not the same," there had been a "meeting of minds" on several issues. "I don't want to leave the impression that we disagreed about everything...far from it," he said. Asked whether his visit to Jamba heralded recognition for the UNITA guerrilla movement, Sir John said the British Government recognised states and not individual movements or organisations.

Dr Savimbi strongly denied that he had arranged the talks in an attempt to gain recognition from the British Government. "We never expected recognition. We merely wanted to discuss problems, which we did," he said.

Sir John said he had agreed to meet with Dr Savimbi so that "we can get to know one another better."

Political observers had said UNITA was using the British captives as a bargaining tool to gain official recognition from Mrs Margaret Thatcher's government, and described the visit by Sir John as a diplomatic coup for UNITA, which is seeking to topple the MPLA government.

Diplomatic channels between UNITA and Britain — which officially recognises the Luanda Government — have been closed since the former Portuguese colony's independence in 1975. British diplomatic sources, however, stressed that the release of the 17 Britons had been negotiated "purely on humanitarian grounds," adding that there had been no question of political bargaining — despite wrangling between the two parties during the past few weeks over the release.

They said the only UNITA demand that the British Government had acceded to was to send a high-ranking government official to Angola to fetch the hostages. UNITA leaders said yesterday, however, that the movement would have to be taken into consideration by the West in its pursuit of peace in Southern Africa, adding that there could be no solution in SWA/Namibia unless there was peace and stability in Angola.

The release of the 17 Britons, who all said they had been well-treated during their captivity, follows hard on the heels of an announcement by UNITA that it is to free 20 Czech hostages with the next week, and that the guerrilla organisation had captured another 50 foreigners during a recent raid. The 20 Czechs were among 66 Czechs and 20 Portuguese captured by UNITA in a raid on an industrial complex in Alto Catumbela in western Angola, in March last year. The rest of the group were released a few months ago.

The fate of a Yugoslav who is still being held by the rebel movement is still unknown, but UNITA sources said it was likely he might also be released soon.

A UNITA spokesman said yesterday the movement had captured a further 50 foreigners during a massive strike about seven weeks ago on the town of Sumbe, situated about 180 km south of Luanda, the Angolan capital. He said the group comprised about five Bulgarians and about 45 Portuguese. The group is presently on its way to Jamba.

According to informed sources, about 500 UNITA cadres were deployed in the raid on Sumbe, possibly making it the movement's largest strike to date.

The release of the 17 Britons was covered by a large contingent of foreign and South African newsmen, who chartered a commercial aircraft from Johannesburg. After landing at an UNITA-controlled airstrip in south-eastern Angola on Friday, after a five-hour flight from Johannesburg, newsmen had to undertake a torturous 10-hour journey by truck along near-impassable roads to UNITA's operational headquarters at JAMBA. Although the distance between the two points is only about 228 km, the roads are so bad that the trucks can only average about 25 to 30 km an hour.

Sir John was given an enthusiastic welcome by about 5,000 UNITA supporters as he arrived in Jamba via South Africa yesterday morning to attend a military parade and musical programme given in his honour by cadres of the more than

40,000-strong UNITA force. The parade ground was bedecked with large banners pledging eventual victory over the Marxist MPLA forces, and calling for the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Cuban troops in the war-torn territory.

UNITA officials said last night that the movement would control all of Angola were it not for Cuban, Soviet, and East German backing for the MPLA. The movement charged yesterday that it controlled more than a third of Angola — which it refers to as "the liberated areas of Angola" — while the MPLA controlled less than a third of the country.

UNITA Says Cuban, FAPLA Troops Clashed

PA130120 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Lisbon, 12 May (EFE) — The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has reported that an armed clash on 5 May between Cuban troops and soldiers of the Angolan regular Army, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA), resulted in casualties on both sides.

According to the UNITA report, published today by the conservative Lisbon newspaper *O DIA*, the Cuban soldiers in the city of Huambo opened fire against the FAPLA troops, who immediatelyu returned the fire. The clash lasted 3 hours and ended only after Lieutenant Colonel Liberdade, who is the Huambo provincial commisar, intervened personally, according to UNITA. The UNITA guerrilla organization led by Jonas Savimbi on 19 April carried out a bomb attack in Huambo. According to official Angolan sources, the bombing resulted in the death of 10 natives and 14 Cubans. According to other sources, there were between 100 and 200 killed.

The attack against the headquarters of the Cuban and Soviet instructors, which can only be understood as a grave security slip or complicity by someone inside the building, resulted in a series of reprisals that, according to Savimbi, resulted in the public execution of 128 Angolan civilians.

According to the UNITA report cited by the Lisbon newspaper, which is usually well informed about the former Portuguese colonies, the Savimbi guerrillas have inflicted 179 casualties in the FAPLA forces and the Cuban soldiers in clashes in 6 central and southern provinces. UNITA claims to have captured 80 hostages, seized 63 automatic weapons, and destroyed 16 vehicles.

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the Angolan antigovernment guerrilla organization operating in the northern part of the country near the Zaire border, which had appeared to be "dormant" for the past few months, has also published a communique in Lisbon reporting on their guerrilla activities. According to their communique, FNLA forces have clashed with 2,000 men sent to fight them. The guerrillas claim that in several clashes around the city of Uige (formerly Ciudad Carmona) in northwest Angola they have killed 12, wounded several dozen of the enemy, and have captured war material.

MOZAMBIQUE

Joint Security Meeting Begins in Maputo

MB120800 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] It is reported from Maputo that a joint Mozambican and South African security meeting opened in the Mozambican capital yesterday. The meeting was arranged 7 weeks ago after the signing of the Accord of Nkomati. It was the third meeting of the Joint Security Council since the signing of a nonaggression pact between the two countries.

Officials in Maputo said it was not likely that any details of the meeting would be released. It was also not clear how long the talks would last. The South African delegation is headed by the commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee. The security of the Cahora Bassa power network will probably receive priority.

Commission Concludes Studies

MB130815 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Mozambique-South Africa Joint Security Commission, which met in Maputo for its third session, made an in-depth and lengthy examination of the measures taken by each side in implementing the Nkomati Accord.

During the session, held from 11 to 12 May, the commission also analyzed the working group's report on the protection of the power line from Cahora Bassa in Mozambique, and the protection of the maintenance personnel, and pertinent measures were recommended to be undertaken jointly by both governments.

The Mozambique-South Africa Joint Security Commission also heard and approved other reports of working groups which had been established during its second session held in Pretoria. The session reiterated the determination of both countries to fully and rigorously implement the Nkomati Accord. The meeting of the Mozambique-South Africa Joint Security Commission, which closed in Maputo yesterday, was chaired by Colonel Sergio Viera, deputy defense minister and chairman of the commission on the Mozambique side, and by General Johan Coetzee, South African police commissioner and chairman of the commission on the South African side.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bomb Suspected in Explosion in Central Durban

MB121014 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] A suspected bomb has gone off in central Durban. The Trust Bank Center in Smith Street was hit by an explosion shortly after 1000 this morning. Details of casualites and the exact location of the bomb are unknown, but an eye witness says police and fire fighters are being hampered by large crowds surrounding the scene of the blast.

No Injuries Reported

MB131144 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 May 84 p 1

[By Michael Johnson]

[Excerpts] A lift plummeted 25 floors when two bombs devastated the offices of the Department of Internal Affairs in Durban yesterday. No one was injured in the blast, but three people were taken to hospital to be treated for shock. The bombs exploded at 10:12am in the lift foyer of the department's offices and in Trust Bank Building, Smith Street, in central Durban. Six lifts which service the upper floors of the building were put out of action, and the blast blew out windows, pushed over room dividers, and tore down the ceiling. Rows of conduit pipes with light switches hung limply from the ceiling like Christmas decorations. All six sets of lift doors were blown in, and one of the lifts plummeted to the ground floor.

Traffic in the major city street came to a halt as police cordoned the area and evacuated the building.

On May 27, 1981, the Defence Force recruiting centre on the ground floor of the same building was blasted. No-one was injured.

No-one has yet claimed responsibility for the blast. A police spokesman said late yesterday that the nature and origin of the explosive was being investigated.

Rocket Attack Made on Durban Oil Refinery

Six People Killed

MB140603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Six people, including four suspected terrorists, have been killed in a police follow-up action after a rocket attack on the Mobil oil refinery in Durban late last night. The four suspected terrorists, three blacks and a Colored, died in a 5-hour shootout with the police. Later the charred remains of two persons were found in a warehouse which caught fire during the shootout. A police constable was wounded in the head. He is in a satisfactory condition in the Addington Hospital. No names have been released. The rocket attack caused a fire which was quickly put out by refinery staff and caused minor damage. The fire was reported at about 2220.

Our Durban staff report that the shootout occurred after a Durban city police patrol had received the description of a vehicle thought to have been used in the rocket attack on the refinery. The vehicle was sighted almost immediately, and two of its tires and the windscreen were riddled with bullets during the subsequent chase. The car was forced to stop on the corner of Hime and Brooklyn Streets and its four occupants, who were armed, jumped out and sought refuge in a nearby construction company site. The four died in the subsequent shootout.

The occupants of the city police car, Constables Nigel Shepstone and Robbie Leicester, were injured during the chase by flying glass from their own vehicle. They were discharged after treatment in the Addington Hospital.

More Bodies Found

MB140820 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0811 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Durban, May 14, SAPA — The death toll in the rocket attack on the Mobil oil refinery in Durban last night has risen to seven. A third body has been found in the ruins of the paint warehouse that caught fire during the shooting. The remains of two bodies had been found in the building earlier.

During the gun battle with the terrorists which lasted five hours, four men — three blacks and a Coloured — were killed.

The warehouse caught fire during the gun battle, but the fire brigade could not approach it because of the shooting. It is not known whether the three people who burnt to death formed part of the terrorist group. The three people burnt to death in the paint factory were later indentified as three casual labourers.

16 Released Britons Arrive in Johannesburg

MB140636 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts]The 16 British nationals and 1 Portuguese woman who were released after being held hostage by the UNITA movement in Angola arrived at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday afternoon. They leave for Britain today.

Their release followed talks between the leader of UNITA, Dr Jonas Savimbi, and the British deputy under secretary for African and Middle Eastern Affairs, Sir John Leahy at UNITA's operational headquarters at Jamba.

Political observers in London said earlier that UNITA was using the British hostages as a bargaining tool to gain official recognition from the British Government for the movement. However, British diplomats have emphasized that Sir John Leahy negotiated for the release of the British citizens solely on humanitarian grounds.

Speaking at Jan Smuts airport, Sir John said that in addition to the release of the Britons, he and Dr Savimbi had also discussed matters affecting Southern Africa. He declined to give more details but did say that the possibility of more talks between Britain and UNITA had not been ruled out.

It has also been announced that UNITA intends expanding its war to the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda to intensify its activities in Luanda.

Pik Botha Comments on SWAPO Role in Namibia

MB100631 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1706 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] House of Assembly, May 9, SAPA — SWAPO members who committed atrocities in SWA/Namibia would continue to be hunted down and shot until they decided to participate peacefully, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today.

If SWAPO terrorists crossed the border into SWA/Namibia, that country and South Africa's security forces would have to take "suitable steps," Mr Botha said during debate on his department's portfolio. However, he added, SWAPO was a recognised political party in SWA/Namibia. And if it participated peacefully and could come to some agreement with the other internal parties of the country, South Africa would not stand in the way. The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, had promised that such an agreement would be accepted by South Africa.

Mr Botha said there were many complexities in SWA/Namibia, which would make it a much more difficult issue to resolve than had been the case in Mozambique. There was the United Nations involvement, more direct Russian investment and interests, as many as 30,000 Cuban soldiers, and UNITA, which considered itself the rightful political movement in Angola.

Various African leaders, Mr Botha said, had agreed that the Angolan issue was very different from Mozambique, where power had been officially transferred to Frelimo on independence. However, he added, UNITA was an internal matter and South Africa would not interfere in it.

ANC Makes Statement on Ties With Countries

MB111924 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has strongly attacked what it described as attempts to drive a wedge between the ANC and fraternal Mozambique. In a statement issued in Lusaka, the ANC categorically denied a report that Mozambique had refused to grant a transit visa to the movements's president, Oliver Tambo. The ANC confirmed the Mozambican statement this week that a visa for Mr Tambo had never even been applied for.

The ANC also refuted an allegation attributed to South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha that the ANC was cooperating with bandits of the so-called Mozambique National Resistance in Mozambique. The ANC described this allegation as a blatant lie. The original claim that ANC was cooperating with bandits was said to have come from Mozambique, but senior Mozambican Government officials have said that is completely false and the ANC said it was certain that the Mozambican Government would never have given Mr Botha such patently false information.

The ANC also referred to difficulties that have arisen in its relations with Swaziland. The statement said the ANC was dismayed over what it called an outpouring of misinformation, vilification, and spite coming from Swaziland. But it added that the ANC was ready to discuss problems with Swaziland in dignity and calmness, away from newspaper sensationalism.

ANC Views Cooperation With RENAMO, Swaziland Ties

MB111720 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The ANC has denied allegations that it is cooperating with the Mozambique National Resistance. The organization has said in a statement that these allegations, made by South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha, are a blatant lie. The ANC calls it an attempt to smear the congress and to drive a wedge between the ANC and the Government of Mozambique. On the situation in Swaziland, the ANC statement says the ANC has avoided making any comprehensive comment on events in the country because it is still awaiting clarification from authorities in Mbabane. It denies that ANC President Oliver Tambo refused to go to Swaziland to discuss the future of the organization's members in that country.

ZAMBIA

Talks on Namibian Independence Begin in Lusaka

Kaunda Opens Talks

MB111556 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 11 May 84

[Speech by President Kenneth Kaunda to the delegations to the Namibian independence talks in Lusaka — live]

[Text] Comrade Chairman, distinguished delegates, dear brothers and sisters: I am addressing these opening remarks to you, my very dear friend, colleague, and brother, administrator-general of the territory of Namibia, your delegation, the people of Namibia and South Africa. I am addressing these opening remarks to you, Comrade President of SWAPO of Namibia, your delegation, and the people of Namibia. I am addressing these opening remarks to each and every one of you, my very dear brothers and sisters who are all my dear friends and colleagues in the delegation of the Multiparty Conference of Namibia and the people of Namibia. On behalf of the people of Zambia, their party, and its government, I welcome you all to Zambia and to this historic meeting.

We must thank and praise God, who has made it possible for us to meet in this manner today. We are at this momentous time, mere agents of His design for the people of Namibia and for the people of our great region of southern Africa. Regardless of race, color, and creed, we are His children and one people. There are no accidents in God's design. It is not an accident that we are meeting here in Lusaka today. This must humble all of us present here that we are participants and witnesses to the great design of God for Namibia and for southern Africa. There are millions of people in Namibia, in South Africa, and in Zambia who would have been happy to have been in this room to discharge this responsibility, perhaps even better than we are set out to do now. We therefore owe it to ourselves, each and everyone of us, to discharge this task before us to the very best of our ability. It is by your own free choice that you have come for this historic meeting, and may I add that this meeting is an act of God.

We have gladly accepted to play host to your meeting because we are convinced that this is an important and courageous step forward to the last kilometer on the road to independence for Namibia. Because we in Zambia are totally committed to the early independence of Namibia, we could not but respond favorably to your common desire to meet here. We have always been prepared to do everything necessary and possible to advance the cause of freedom and independence for Namibia. Your meeting today reminds Zambians of the process that they and others in many independent African countries had to go through. We remember that it is our unity on the goal of independence that brought us our freedom. I hope, therefore, that the parties of Namibia who are represented here today will be united on the goals that propel the Namibian people to fight for their independence from the colonial power, which is South Africa.

We in Zambia hope and trust that the early independence of Namibia and nothing else will be the overriding concern and focus of your deliberations. We hope, too, that your meeting in the environment we offer you in our country will lead to that objective. Nothing could please us better in this 20th anniversary of our own independence than the emergence of Namibia as an independent and sovereign nation. Namibia is not only a neighbor of Zambia, but also a country whose people are intrinsically linked to many in this country through blood. We are aware that Namibians, like Zambians, believe in and wish to build a nation in which all people — irrespective of race or color or creed — can live together harmoniously and join hands in the task of national, economic, and social development.

You are meeting at a time when there have been significant developments in our part of the world. These developments have attracted worldwide attention and interest. Our region is clearly in the sharp focus of the international community. Your meeting therefore will be followed closely and anxiously, not only by the people of Namibia but by the entire international community as a whole.

In relation to recent developments, regional stability, peace, and security have been the keywords in the vocabulary and utterances of many of us. Indeed, all too often, some have spoken about the need to break what they have called the cycle of violence in southern Africa. Nobody could ever deny the importance or desirability of such an objective. What rightly concerns all those who care about our region is that we create conditions for genuine and durable stability, peace, and security for all our countries and people.

To do this, we have to analyze the causes of the conflict in our region and seek to eliminate them. Comrade chairman, brothers and sisters, to do this we have to analyze the causes of the conflict in our region and seek to eliminate them. [repeated words as heard] It is futile to deal with the effects of the conflict without finding a cure for its causes.

The situation in Namibia is certainly one of the major causes of the conflict in southern Africa. The freedom and independence of Namibia and the elimination of apartheid in South Africa would, without doubt, create the right and realistic climate for regional stability, peace, and security. This happy turn of events would also herald a new era of cooperative relationships among the countries of southern Africa, and speed accelerated economic and social development for the benefit of all our peoples.

The independence of Namibia is the litmus test as to the genuineness of all protestations in favor of regional stability, peace, and security, and the resolve to break the so-called cycle of violence. As I said on the occasion of the fifth graduation ceremony of the UN Institute for Namibia in March this year, the suspended birth of Namibia as a nation is the single most concrete cause of insecurity in southern Africa, originating from outside the national boundaries of all the individual independent states in the region.

The road to Namibia's independence has been a long and difficult one. Many concerted efforts have been made to bring about the independence of Namibia by peaceful means. On many occasion, we have come close to the realization of that objective only to see the opportunity slip away for no particular valid reason.

Historians of course will record the details of the struggle for Namibia's independence. It is not the objective of this meeting to review the history of this struggle. It is not. Your meeting my dear brothers and sisters should not be an occassion for apportioning blame as regards the delay. It should not be an occassion for confrontation, retribution, or recrimination.

In this regard, I urge you to adopt a positive, objective, and statesman-like approach and look to the future. That the meeting is taking place at all in this setting is very important. It is a challenge to all of you — the administrator-general, SWAPO, and the other Namibian parties — not to be discouraged by the failures of yesterday, but rather to be inspired by them to achieve success today. Let it not be said hereafter that yet another wonderful opportunity to achieve significant progress towards the freedom and indepndence of Namibia has been missed for no really valid reason.

Comrade Chairman, my brothers and sisters, I am aware of the differences between SWAPO and some of the internal parties in Namibia, particularly those represented in the Multiparty Conference. These differences have led to a climate of mutual suspicion and resentment. But I am also equally aware that the Namibian people are united on the objective of independence for their country. Certainly I do not know of any Namibian around this table who has openly opposed the independence of his country and advocates its perpetual occupation by South Africa.

Brothers and sisters, this is an extremely important common ground. I hope this meeting in Lusaka will create a climate of mutual trust and confidence among the various leaders of the Namibian people present, and lead at length to a unity of people vis a vis the practical way and the means of achieving that independence. It would be naive to expect total unity among the Namibian people or to make this a precondition for the independence of their country. On the other hand divisions among Namibians should not be permitted to be a pretext for continued South African occupation of their country.

South Africa has repeatedly stated that it is prepared and willing to withdraw from Namibia and allow the territory to achieve its independence. Like all Namibian parties, South Africa has accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978, which is the internationally recognized basis for the peaceful achievement of independence by Namibia. This meeting should examine why it is that up to now this resolution has not been implemented. Is the question of the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola really relevant to the independence of Namibia? Do you all really feel threatened by Cuban forces who are not fighting you, the Namibian people. I call upon both South Africa and the United States to reconsider their position on this issue as the question of the presence of the Cuban military forces in Angola is totally extraneous and irrelevant to Namibia's independence.

I hope that during this meeting all Namibian patriots will make abundantly clear to South Africa that they disapprove of the position of South Africa and the United States on this issue, and want their country to be independent irrespective of what happens to the Cubans in Angola. South Africa must listen to the Namibians on this matter. It must not ignore their position and continue to insist on the so-called linkage between Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of the Cuban military forces from Angola. There is simply is no linkage between the two — none at all. Neither Angola nor Cuba has any intention whatsoever to export those Cubans in Angola to Namibia now or after Namibia's independence. For South Africa to continue insisting on the so-called linkage, and at the same time purport willingness to withdraw from Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435, would be grossly unfair, grossly unfair [repeated words as heard] to the Namibians, and is punishing Namibians for the sins they have not committed.

South Africa must therefore demonstrate its sincerity on the question of Namibia's independence now and stop putting spanners in the way to Namibia's independence.

Brothers and sisters, all of you here, South Africa through the administrator general, SWAPO, and the internal parties in the Multiparty Conference, have a collective responsibility and duty to bring about the independence of Namibia. You now have an historic opportunity to do so. The independence of Namibia is within your grasp, and you have the goodwill of the entire international community to achieve success in this endeavor. I am confident that with political will, mutual tolerance, and patience, flexibility, and accommodation, persistance, and dedication, as well as a shared sense of commitment to the noble cause of Namibia's independence, you will not fail. You have Zambia's best wishes and good luck. May God bless your efforts, and thank you. [applause]

Urges Mutual Understanding

MB120646 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has implored the various Namibian factions taking part in the independence talks in Lusaka to use the occasion to cement mutual understanding and end fighting. Addressing the conference delegates during a State House dinner last night, Dr Kaunda said to them that those who eat food together should not fight again. The president proposed a toast during the (convivial) dinner to continued good health for SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma, who celebrated this 56th birthday anniversary yesterday. Namibia adminstrator general, Willie Van Niekerk, toasted to Zambia's continued prosperity, in recognition of the warm hospitality accorded to his delegation during the talks. Earlier, the dinner was delayed from 1930 hours, when it was scheduled to start, to 0200 hours to morning. Subsequently this morning's resumption of the talks at Mulungushi Hall has been postponed from 0830 to 1100 hours.

Disagreement on Cuban Cease-Fire

MB140600 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Lusaka conference on the independence of South-West Africa ended last night without agreement having been reached on key issues between the Multiparty Conference [MPC] of South-West Africa and SWAPO. Our Lusaka correspondent reports that the negotiations have not ruled out the possibility of further talks. Attempts failed last night to compose a declaration of intent concerning the future of the country, which could be endorsed by the parties attending the conference.

The Lusaka conference spanned 3 days of intensive deliberations. The joint chairman, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who presided over the talks with the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said last night that the talks had been very very difficult and complex. He said that the objective of the conference had not been attained. Dr van Niekerk said that he hoped that the road to find peace and independence for South-West Africa would not be too long.

President Kaunda said that the participating parties had identified the areas where they differed, and he hoped that doors would remain open for discussion. Our correspondent reports that the parties had differed mainly on the signing of a cease-fire agreement and on the question of the Cuban presence in Angola. South Africa has made the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola a prerequisite for South-West African independence, while Zambia and SWAPO do not want to link the Cuban presence to independence for the territory.

President Kaunda also praised Dr van Niekerk for his determination and sincerity in seeking a solution to the South-West African question. Dr van Niekerk thanked his co-chairman for his hospitality of the past 3 days, and for his help rendered to the delegations in the search to try to find a solution. A spokesman for the MPC, Mr Dirk Mudge, blamed SWAPO for the failure of the talks. He told newsmen that SWAPO had refused to sign the declaration of intent and in his opinion, the organization had had no sincere desire to come to an agreement. The delegation for the MPC leaves Lusaka today on visits to several North African countries.

SWAPO, DTA Exchange Blame

MB130730 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Namibian independence talks adjourned late last night for this morning, with SWAPO and the Multiparty Conference [MPC] accusing each other of not cooperating. Breifing the press on the adjournment, SWAPO spokesman Theo-Ben Gurirab said the conference was on the verge of collapse because of MPC provocations and intransigence. Mr Gurirab, who is his organization's representative at the United Nations, doubted whether the talks will end up with an agreed text today, because the MPC was bent on wrecking them. He said it was clear from the beginning of the talks on Friday that the MPC was not interested in reaching an agreement, as they raised several objections, including the composition of the SWAPO delegation.

Mr Gurirab said that the talks will end in deadlock if the MPC does not change its attitude. He added that the MPC wants to wreck the conference, as they did in Geneva in 1981. He blamed South Africa for not having exerted pressure on the MPC and allowing the group to engage in prevarication. SWAPO was ready to sign a cease-fire agreement with South Africa and begin the implementation of Resolution 435.

The chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, DTA, Mr Dirk Mudge, said in a brief statement to the press that SWAPO was to blame for the deadlock as it insisted that the MPC did not exist.

The talks, which were opened on Friday under His Excellency President Kaunda's cochairmanship, will resume this morning at Mulungushi Hall in Lusaka.

Van Niekerk Spokesman on MPC Status

MB111949 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] A spokesman for the office of the administrator-general of South-West Africa said the South African Government delegation led by Dr Willie van Niekerk was interested in hearing what other parties at the conference had to say to determine if a solution could be found to the South-West Africa question. He said in an interview before the conference that he disagreed with the stand SWAPO seemed to have taken before the conference, that it would not talk to the delegation of the Multiparty Conference. He said members of the delegation were listed as delegates to the conference, which meant that they were allowed to talk.

MPC, SWAPO on Equal Footing

MB111726 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] The host of the talks on South-West Africa, which began in Lusaka this afternoon, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, says the Multiparty Conference [MPC] and SWAPO are taking part in the talks on equal footing and enjoy equal status. A spokesman for the MPC Mr Dirk Mudge, said this assurance had been given by President Kaunda during preparatory talks. According to Mr Mudge, it would appear that the Zambian leader was endeavoring to be entirely impartial. He said if this was the case, President Kaunda could play an important part in the peace initiative.

Nujoma Comments

MB120915 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0839 GMT 12 May 84

[Excepts] Lusaka, May 12, SAPA — There was room in an independent Namibia for all Namibians, black and white, the South West African Peoples Organization [SWAPO] president, Mr Sam Nujoma, told a conference on the territory's independence in Lusaka last night.

Mr Nujoma said SWAPO's fight had been aimed at the "colonial system and apartheid policies in Namibia." SWAPO wanted once again "to reassure the whites that there is room for all Namibians, both black and white, in an independent Namibia." He said SWAPO would protect and guarantee under the law "human rights, property rights, and civil liberties of all Namibians."

The opening day yesterday was spent wrangling about the size and composition of the SWAPO delegation. After objections by the SWA/Namibia Multi-Party Conference, SWAPO at first conceded to reduce its delegation from 36 to 29 representatives. Later, it agreed to drop dissident members of the SWA National Union from its delegation. A last objection by the MPC about the inclusion of the Mbanderu Council in the SWAPO delegation was ruled out of order in the early hours of this morning by the conference host and co-chairman, Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

Final Session Planned

MB130546 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A final brief session of the meeting in Lusaka on the future of South-West Africa will take place this morning, after conflicting statements that the talks were on the verge of collapse. The leader of the SWAPO-Democrats and member of the Multiparty Conference, Mr Andreas Shipanga, said after a late-night session that there was simply no breakdown at this stage. He said that last night's meeting agreed to a follow-up gathering on a cease-fire and independence in the Zambian capital at a later date. But a senior official at the talks, who refused to be identified, said President Kaunda of Zambia had offered to host another session in Zambia, but that no final agreement had been reached.

Earlier, a SWAPO spokesman, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, said the talks were on the verge of collapse, and that there would be no agreed position emerging from the meeting. He accused delegates from the internal parties in South-West Africa of trying to wreck the conference. However, another internal spokesman, Mr Dirk Mudge, countered by saying that SWAPO had jeopardized the talks by refusing to recognize his group.

Some Success Noted

MB140616 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] The Namibian independence talks ended in a deadlock last night after three days of intense negotiations involving SWAPO, the Multi-Party Conference [MPC], and South African representatives. However, Dr Kaunda pointed out, that although the main objective was not achieved, the conference succeeded in identifying concerned parties' stands on the various issues concerning the decolonization of Namibia.

He also pointed out that the situation was not hopeless, as the identification of views would hopefully lead to more contacts between interested parties at all levels. The president called for further steps aimed at effecting a ceasefire, and cessation of hostilities. He admitted that the linkage of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola to Namibia's independence had been one of the causes of differences between SWAPO and South African delegations during the talks. He expressed the hope that a way would be found out of the problem.

Dr Van Niekerk, who co-chaired the talks with Dr Kaunda, paid tribute to the president's untiring efforts to have the talks succeed, and for peace and reconciliation in the Southern African region. He recalled that the conference met for 20 hours on one of the three days of the talks, showing President Kaunda's commitment to the noble cause of peace. Dr Van Niekerk said the meeting had taken a step towards bringing peace and independence for Namibia.

No Agreement Reached

PA140421 Paris AFP in English 0353 GMT 14 May 84

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Lusaka, May 14 (AFP) — For the second time in three years, Namibia's (?black) nationalist guerrillas and the South African Government have failed to reach a negotiated settlement that would end almost two (?decades) of war and bring independence to the mineral-rich territory.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, looking exhausted from chairing three days of what he acknowledged had been "very, very difficult" talks, announced here Sunday night that South Africa, SWAPO guerrillas and an alliance [words indistinct] "internal" Namibian parties had been unable to agree on a final joint [word indistinct], nor had they been able to agree even on a firm plan to meet again.

Mr Kaunda told reporters at the closing session of the talks that South (?Africa's) linkage of the presence of 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola, Namibia's (?northern neighbor), to the territory's independence had been a "most vexing issue."

Pretoria contends that the Cubans would pose a security threat to an independent Namibia after South Africa withdrew its 30,000 soldiers from the former [word indistinct] colony it has ruled since 1920.

Opening the Lusaka meeting on Friday, Mr Kaunda told the South African delegation, led by Namibian Administrator-General Willie van Niekerk, that the Cubans were "not for export" from Angola, which says they will go home when South African forces in Namibia no longer threaten Angola.

Leaders of the six South African-backed (?parties), at a news conference after the meeting, blamed SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) [words indistinct].

They said the guerrillas, [word indistinct] Sam Nujoma, had refused to talk directly (?to) them in closed-door discussions, communicating only through Zambian and South African intermediaries [words indistinct] refused to sign a sense-of-(?the)-conference declaration which the six parties had approved.

SWAPO said after the talks that it would have no statement until later today, at least.

Mr Kaunda and Mr van Niekerk, the conference co-chairmen, were resolutely optimistic in their closing remarks.

The Zambian leader said the meeting had been "worthwhile" because it had allowed all the parties to "identify each other's positions. In my opinion it is important that contacts at various levels continue among those involved in the talks. We need to keep our doors open," he said.

Mr van Niekerk said:"We have taken a step and I hope the road will not be so long for peace and independence for Namibia," where an estimated 10,000 people have died in the 18-year bush war.

A sign of good faith on South Africa's part, Mr Kaunda said, had been the release from jail during the talks of 15 SWAPO members who had been held for several years in Roboen Island Prison, off Cape Town.

But despite the goodwill expressed by Mr Kaunda and Mr van Niekerk, the Lusaka meeting ended with no more tangible result than that in Geneva in January 1981, when South Africa refused to sign a ceasefire.

The leaders of the "internal" parties, which SWAPO dismisses as "puppets" of Pretoria, claimed that a draft declaration circulated by South Africa and Zambia at the start of this meeting and allegedly rejected by SWAPO had called for a ceasefire.

But the truce, their spokesman Moses Katjiuongua said, would have been the "first step in a process leading to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435," the 1978 plan under which South African troops are supposed to quit Namibia, and U.N.-supervised independence elections be held in the territory of one million blacks and 70,000 whites.

Mr Nujoma said during the meeting that he was ready to sign a ceasefire right away, but that the application of Resolution 435 must be "immediate and unconditional."

Observers noted that the formulation speaking of a "process" prior to application of Resolution 435, would have given more time to South Africa, which has said for four years that it accepts the U.N. plan but has not put it into practice, citing various "obstacles."

SWAPO is generally believed to be in a position to win any elections held under the U.N. plan despite its having been weakened militarily by a recent security accord between South Africa and Angola, where SWAPO has had bases for striking into Namibia.

The representatives of the six internal Namibian parties, who call themselves the multi-party conference, were leaving Lusaka today for a tour of several Francophone African states, the United States, and Western Europe in a bid for more international recognition. SWAPO is considered by the United Nations as "the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people."

Further on Talks' Conclusion

AB121158 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 12 May 84

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Lusaka, May 12 (AFP) — South Africa stuck to its position at Namibia independence talks here today that the United Nations plan for elections and a South African wthdrawal from the territory cannot be applied with Cuban troops still in neighboring Angola.

Willie van Niekerk, Pretoria's administrator-general for Namibia, made the statement as delegations from South Africa, SWAPO nationalist guerrillas, and the South African-backed "internal" Namibian parties started closed-doors talks early this morning, according to sources in the South African delegation.

The South African statement followed a strong call by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, opening the meeting yesterday, for South Africa and the United States to reconsider their position on the Cuban issue. "The question of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola is totally extraneous and irrelevant to Namibia's independence," Mr Kaunda said.

His speech to all three delegations in Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall was followed by an eight-hour delay in starting private talks, caused by a squabble between SWAPO (Southwest Africa People's Organization) and the internal parties in which SWAPO eventually capitulated.

Once the meeting resumed after midnight, SWAPO urged an immediate cease-fire in its 18-year war against South African rule of Namibia, and the implementation of UN Resolution 435 calling for a withdrawal of South African troops and UN-supervised elections. "I have been fully mandated by the Central Committee of SWAPO to sign a cease-fire right at this meeting and to proceed with the overall implementation of Resolution 435 in order to bring about the independence of Namibia," SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said, according to the text of his speech.

But Mr van Niekerk, leading the South African delegation, said 435 could not be applied as long as 25,000 Cuban troops remained in Angola.

The South African Government has expressed fears for the security of a future independent Namibia from the Cubans, although both Luanda and Havana have repeatedly (?said) they are there to protect Angola from South African forces, and will leave once Pretoria's 30,000 troops quit Namibia.

Mr Kaunda yesterday challenged the security argument, asking: "Do you all feel really threatened by Cuban forces who are not fighting the Namibian people?"

However, Mr van Niekerk, according to the South African sources, also said that the Namibian people should not be made to suffer because of events in Angola, and that if SWAPO and the internal parties could come to agreement here for independence, Pretoria would not stand in the way.

SWAPO has rejected Pretoria's line of reasoning that it is here to discuss independence modalities, possibly outside the UN plan, with the internal parties, saying it and South African as parties to the conflict must come to agreement instead.

Representatives of the six internal parties said their opening statement (?of this) morning emphasized reconciliation among the various Namibian parties.

SWAPO has always termed the internal parties puppets and traitors, but in its statement today, the guerrilla movement invited Namibians "who have become the witting or unwitting tools in the service of (South African) colonialism" to join it in "promoting national conciliation and reconstruction." Mr Kaunda yesterday recognized the past differences among the parties, and urged them to avoid "confrontation, retribution and recrimination" and seize a "historic opportunity" to bring peace and independence to the former German colony ruled by Pretoria since 1920.

Representatives of the internal parties, grouped in what is called the mutli-party conference, said their aim was to see the Lusaka meeting agree on a national reconciliation conference in Windhoek, for which Mr Nujoma and other exiled SWAPO leaders would return to Namibia for the first time in two decades.

A Windhoek conference should lead to further contacts and eventually constitutional discussions, said Kuaima Riruako, president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, one of the internal parties. Observers said it was far from certain that SWAPO, although weakened militarily by the recent Angola-South Africa accord blocking its guerrillas access to Namibia from bases in Angola, would want to get involved in such contacts that could point at a settlement outside the bounds of the UN plane.

After the opening statements of the three delegations, the conference adjourned at 0330 (0130 GMT) today, and resumed in closed-session eight hours later.